

Flintshire County Council



REPORT

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

ON THE

HEALTH

OF

FLINTSHIRE

DURING THE YEAR

1959



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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

COUNTY HEALTH OFFICES,
LLWYNEGRIN,
MOLD.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Flintshire County Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Probably the most important landmark in 1959 was the receipt first of the Mental Health Bill and later the Mental Health Act, 1959. This new Act cancels all previous legislation relating to mental illness and mental deficiency, and brings mental illness in line with other forms of illness. More than this the Act lays stress on the prevention of mental disorder, community care of those suffering from mental disorder and the need for more facilities for rehabilitation and after care. By the end of 1959, parts of the Act had been implemented including the procedure for informal admission of the mentally disordered to hospital. The main provisions of this Act will come into force in 1960, but a great deal of preliminary planning to implement the new Act has already been done, and more will be needed as guidance on various aspects of the new duties is received from the Ministry of Health.

Our Poliomyelitis Vaccination Programme continued throughout 1959 and involved a great deal of extra work both in Clinic Sessions and in planning. There was no change in age groups during the year and the third injections started in 1958 were continued. No cases of Poliomyelitis were notified during the year, this being the second successive year for the County to be free of cases of paralytic poliomyelitis. At the end of the year, 20,292 persons had received three injections of vaccine, 37,255 two injections (this includes the 20,292 who had their third injection), and only 123 were awaiting vaccination.

At the end of 1959, 80 % of children aged 6 months to 16 years in the County had been vaccinated against poliomyelitis. (75 % England and Wales). Of the 16-26 year group, 45 % had been vaccinated (44 % England and Wales).

Apart from an outbreak of influenza early in the year the County remained free of any illness on an epidemic scale. Influenza (Virus B) was reported in the Rhyl area in February and soon affected the whole County. The illness was mild, affected all age groups, had few complications, and cleared in April. Once again, all members of the Health Department staff were offered Influenza Vaccine and this proved effective in reducing the incidence of infection in vaccinated persons.

A joint meeting with the Consultant Physician, General Practitioners, Welfare Officers and myself took place in May to discuss all aspects of the

services available for the aged, including the services for the aged sick. A full report of this meeting is included in Section F at the end of this report. It is worth noting that all the recommendations of this meeting which affect the Health Department services had been implemented by the end of the year.

There is a need to establish in the County a planned Geriatric Service under a Consultant Geriatrician and during the latter part of the year a meeting between representatives of the Regional Hospital Board, Hospital Management Committee and the County Council took place to discuss the whole problem. The Regional Hospital Board agreed to the appointment of a Consultant in this speciality in the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Management Committee area, and the County Council have agreed to pay part of the salary in view of the combined nature of the post.

The Guild of Social Workers in Wales held its biennial conference during 1959 at Rhyl. The theme of the conference was "From Acts into Action—the contribution of the Social Worker." Many members of the Health Department staff attended and found the meetings and discussion groups valuable and interesting.

The year was also notable for the publication of two important reports—The Report of the Maternity Services Committee (Cranbrook Report) and The Report of the Working Party on Social Workers in the Local Authority Health and Welfare Services (Younghusband Report). The recommendations contained in both reports, if implemented, will have an important bearing on the staffing and services of local authority health departments. Another report of considerable importance to local authorities which was received during the year was that of the Advisory Committee on the Training of District Nurses.

The welfare services for generally handicapped persons was again improved during the year with the approval of proposals to provide services for them, the implementation of the initial stages of the services approved by the Health Committee.

New Clinic premises were provided in St. Asaph by the purchase of a house which was adapted as a Clinic and a flat for the District Nurse. The clinic is centrally situated on the common, and the accommodation is very suitable for clinic purposes. No other new clinic premises were provided during the year, but a clinic was opened in Talacre in rented premises in July.

The state of the health of the community in Flintshire remained good during the year and, indeed, improved in many aspects as the statistics in this report show.

Staff.

Medical—Dr. G. W. Roberts attended the Joint Conference of the College of General Practitioners and the Society of Medical Officers of Health held in London on the 23rd and 24th May, 1959. He also attended (together with the Chairman of the Health Committee and the County Public Health Inspector) the Royal Society of Health Congress held at Harrogate from 27th April to 1st May, 1959.

Dr. E. H. Annels, the Deputy County Medical Officer, attended the Annual Conference of the National Association for Maternity and Child Welfare held in London from 21st to 23rd July, 1959.

Dr. D. J. Fraser attended a Civil Defence Course at Sunningdale from 19th to 23rd October, 1959.

Dr. L. Sheargold has, since the 13th February, 1959, been employed as a part-time Assistant Medical Officer on a sessional basis.

Dr. W. Manwell completed the course at Liverpool University and gained his Diploma in Public Health in June, 1959.

Dr. R. Rhydwen was absent from duty, owing to illness, from October to the end of the year. His services were greatly missed both in the County Health Service and in the Local Authority District in the Western part of the County.

Dental—Miss M. Malcolm terminated her part-time employment with the Authority as a Dental Officer on the 24th July, 1959, and Mr. Leon Harris, B.D.S., took up his duties as full-time Dental Officer on the 1st September, 1959.

The following General Medical Practitioners who were engaged as Dental Anaesthetists on a part-time sessional basis terminated such service on the respective dates shown :—

Dr. J. Griffiths—27th March, 1959.

Dr. P. K. Owen—9th July, 1959.

Dr. D. Brash—21st July, 1959.

Dr. J. A. Green (who began 25/3/59)—19th November, 1959.

Also the under-mentioned General Medical Practitioners commenced part-time duty as Dental Anaesthetists (on a sessional basis) on the dates shown :—

Dr. J. M. Hands—31st January, 1959.

Dr. H. A. Freeman—19th September, 1959.

Dr. G. E. S. Robinson—13th October, 1959.

Dr. M. E. Lloyd—29th October, 1959.

Dr. A. H. Babington—26th November, 1959.

Mr. E. Lewis, County Public Health Inspector, attended the Royal Society of Health Congress at Harrogate from 27th April to 1st May, and the Summer School in Health Education at Bangor from 18th to 28th August, 1959.

Health Visitors/School Nurses—Miss D. V. Gray, the Superintendent Health Visitor, attended the Conference of the Royal College of Nursing held in London from 28th to 30th October, 1959. The subject for the Conference was "Mental Health."

Mrs. L. Pritchard attended the Annual Conference of the Royal College of Nursing in London on the 6th June, 1959.

Miss Gwenneth Jones attended a course in "Some Modern Health Problems" arranged by the Central Council for Health Education, held at Shrewsbury on 13th and 14th April, 1959.

Miss J. S. Rogers attended the Summer School in Health Education held at Bangor from 18th to 28th August, 1959.

Miss E. Weston attended the Women's Public Health Officers Annual Conference which was held in London on 14th November, 1959.

Mrs. E. G. E. Rees and Miss M. Lees attended the Women's Public Health Officers Winter School in London from 28th December, 1959, to 10th January, 1960.

Miss G. M. Jones, formerly District Nurse/Midwife in Holywell, successfully completed the Health Visitors Training Course and commenced duty as a Health Visitor/School Nurse in Holywell Rural area on 22nd June, 1959.

Miss M. Williams commenced duty as Health Visitor/School Nurse in the Shotton District on 4th August, 1959.

Miss F. Isherwood commenced duty on the 2nd March, 1959, as a part-time Health Visitor in the Prestatyn area.

The following commenced part-time duty as Clinic Nurses on the dates shown :—

Mrs. H. Davies—23rd March, 1959.

Mrs. R. Williams—4th May, 1959.

Mrs. M. M. Digweed—20th July, 1959.

Mrs. M. Pritchard, who was employed as a Clinic Nurse (part-time) terminated these duties on 23rd February, 1959, and Nurse D. Owen, who had been similarly employed, terminated her duties on the 22nd July, 1959.

District Nurses and Midwives—Miss L. Mann, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. Certif., commenced duty as Superintendent Nursing Officer and Supervisor of Midwives on the 16th February, 1959.

The under-mentioned Nurses left the service on the dates mentioned :—

Nurse M. H. Lloyd—31st December, 1959.

Nurse E. M. Green—30th September, 1959.

Nurse B. A. Owen—28th February, 1959.

Nurse M. A. Bennett—31st December, 1959.

Nurse D. Willatt—31st December, 1959.

*Nurse M. Y. Secker—21st September, 1959.

* To commence training for Health Visitor's Certificate through the Authority's Training Scheme.

The following newly appointed Nurses and Midwives commenced duty on the dates shown :—

*Nurse R. Davies (full-time Relief Nurse/Midwife)—15th September, 1959.

*Miss F. M. Higginson (full-time Relief Nurse/Midwife)—15th Sept., 1959.

(* Commenced Queen's Training Course under Authority's Training Scheme).

Courses, Conferences, etc.—Miss L. Mann, Superintendent Nursing Officer and Supervisor of Midwives, attended the course on "Mental Health" arranged by the Royal College of Nursing from 28th to 30th October, 1959.

Miss D. Norman, Deputy Superintendent Nursing Officer and Deputy Supervisor of Midwives, attended a course for Supervisors of Midwives in London from 14th to 21st April, 1959.

Nurse M. Y. Secker commenced training for Health Visitors Certificate (under the Authority's Training Scheme) on 21st September, 1959.

The following Nurses commenced Queen's Nurse Training under the Authority's Training Scheme on the dates shown :—

Nurse E. Roberts at Manchester—16th January, 1959.

Nurse F. M. Higginson at Liverpool—15th September, 1959.

Nurse G. Gibson at Liverpool—15th September, 1959.

Nurse M. Hinchin at Liverpool—15th September, 1959.

Nurse R. Davies at Manchester—14th September, 1959.

The under-mentioned attended Post Graduate Courses for Midwives during the year as follows :—

Nurse N. A. Furneaux at St. Asaph—13th to 27th April.

Nurse B. Coupé at Oxford—12th to 18th April.

Nurse M. E. Hughes at Cardiff—28th June to 4th July.

Nurse M. E. Risley at Cardiff—28th June to 4th July.

Nurse D. J. Asquith at Exeter—9th to 15th August.

Nurse S. C. Edwards at Leeds—13th to 19th September.

Nurse D. Phillips at Leeds—13th to 19th September.

Nurse A. Ellwood at Oxford—13th to 19th September.

Nurse C. Roberts and Nurse A. Ellwood attended a refresher course for State Enrolled Assistant Nurses at Birmingham from the 16th to 21st November.

Mental Health—Mr. J. C. Seaman commenced duty as Senior Mental Health Officer on 1st December, 1959.

Mental Health (Courses)—Mrs. G. D. Davies and Mrs. I. H. Banks, Assistant Supervisors at the County Occupation Centre, Rhyl, attended a Refresher Course for Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped at Putney from 23rd to 31st July, 1959.

Administrative Staff—Mr. T. D. Jones, one of the Senior Administrative Assistants of the Health Department, attended the N.A.L.G.O. Summer School at Cambridge from 17th to 24th September, 1959.

I would like, once again, to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their interest and support during the year. My sincere thanks also go to fellow officers of the County Council for their help at all times in the administration of the services of the department.

To Mr. W. I. Roberts, the Chief Clerk, I would once again pay a sincere tribute for his excellent services during the year.

The staff of the department have again worked as a loyal team and given very good service. I would like to record my tribute to them all, and convey to them the appreciation of the public for the services provided by the health department.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. W. ROBERTS,

County Medical Officer of Health.

Section 1.

ADMINISTRATION.

A.—DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS.

County Medical Officer :

Griffith Wyn Roberts, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Official Address : County Health Offices, Mold. Tel. Mold 106 (7 lines).

Deputy County Medical Officer :

Ernest Henry Annels, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Medical Officer (in charge of School Health Services) :

Edna Pearse, M.B., Ch.B., C.P.H. (Liverpool).

Assistant Medical Officers (full-time) :

George Frederick Devey, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

William Manwell, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.T.M., C. & M., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers (part-time sessional) :

Dr. E. M. Harding.

Dr. Y. B. Gibson.

Dr. Marie Beddow.

Dr. M. C. Cameron.

Dr. L. Sheargold (since 13/2/59).

Assistant Medical Officers (part-time) who are also Medical Officers of Health for Grouped County Districts :

A. Cathcart, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

R. Rhydwen, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

D. J. Fraser, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chest Physicians (part-time) :

E. Clifford-Jones, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (London).

J. B. Morrison, M.D., Ch.B.

Child Guidance Consultant (Regional Hospital Board Staff) :

E. Simmons, M.D., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P.S. (Glasgow).

Ear, Nose and Throat and Audiology Consultant (Regional Hospital Board Staff) :

Catrin M. Williams, F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmic Consultants (Regional Hospital Board Staff) :

E. F. Wilson, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.
 A. C. Shuttleworth, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S.
 E. Lyons, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S.

Orthopaedic Consultant (Staff of Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry) :

T. McSweeney, F.R.C.S.

Consultant Paediatrician (Regional Hospital Board Staff) :

M. M. McLean, M.D., M.R.C.P.E., D.C.H.

Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist (Regional Hospital Board Staff) :

Mr. E. Parry-Jones, M.R.C.O.G.

Speech Therapist (part-time) :

Mrs. R. E. Ward, L.C.S.T.

Principal School Dental Officer (full-time) :

A. Fielding, L.D.S., R.C.S.

Dental Officers (full-time) :

Leslie Hanson, L.D.S.
 Frederick Seymour Dodd, L.D.S.
 Leon Harris, B.D.S. (commenced 1/9/59).

Dental Officers, Temporary, Part-time (Sessional) :

John Stuart Selwyn, L.D.S.
 A. O. Hewitt, L.D.S.
 Miss M. Malcolm, L.D.S. (resigned 24/7/59).

Consultant Orthodontist (Part-time sessional) :

B. T. Broadbent, F.D.S., R.C.S.

Dental Anaesthetists (Part-time sessional) :

Dr. Prudence K. Owen (discontinued 9/7/59).
 Dr. J. Griffiths (discontinued 27/3/59).
 Dr. D. Brash (discontinued 21/7/59).
 Dr. J. M. Hands (since 31/1/59).
 Dr. J. A. Green (from 25/3/59 to 19/11/59).
 Dr. H. A. Freeman (since 19/9/59).
 Dr. G. E. S. Robinson (since 17/10/59).
 Dr. A. H. Babbington (since 26/11/59).
 Dr. M. E. Lloyd (since 29/10/59).

County Public Health Inspector (also Food and Drugs Inspector) :

Elwyn Lewis, M.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.

Superintendent Nursing Officer and Supervisor of Midwives :

Miss L. Mann, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.Cert. (since 16/2/59).

Deputy Superintendent Nursing Officer and Deputy Supervisor of Midwives :

Miss Daisy Norman, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.Cert.

Superintendent Health Visitor/School Nurse (also Domestic Help Organiser) :

Miss D. V. Gray, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

Health Visitors (acting jointly as Health Visitors and School Nurses) : All State Registered Nurses and State Certified Midwives, and with Health Visitor's Certificate (with one exception*) or other qualification :—

Miss E. Weston, Senior Health Visitor/School Nurse.

Miss M. J. Hughes.

Mrs. L. Pritchard.

Miss J. M. Jewell.

Mrs. M. E. Pearse.

Miss Ellen Jones.

Mrs. E. G. E. Rees.

Miss G. Jones.

Mrs. J. Thomas.

Miss G. Jenkins.

Mrs. D. Thompson.

Miss J. S. Rogers.

Miss M. W. Wright.

Miss M. Lees.

Miss E. M. L. Morgan.

Miss A. M. Stewart.

Mrs. D. M. Lewis.

*Mrs. A. E. Williams, S.R.N.,
S.R.F.N.

Miss G. M. Jones (since 22/6/59).

Miss M. Williams (since 4/8/59).

Miss F. Isherwood (Part-time
since 2/3/59).

Clinic Nurses :

Nurse D. Owens (Part-time sessional) (resigned 22/7/59).

Mrs. A. R. Iball (Part-time sessional).

Mrs. E. Boswell (Part-time sessional).

Mrs. M. Pritchard (Part-time sessional) (resigned 23/2/59).

Mrs. H. Davies (Part-time sessional) (since 23/3/59).

Mrs. M. M. Digweed (Part-time sessional) (since 20/7/59).

Mrs. R. Williams (Part-time sessional) (since 4/5/59).

Tuberculosis Visitors :

Mrs. M. M. D. Roberts, S.R.N., S.C.M., T.B. Cert.

Mrs. I. M. M. Beedles, S.R.N., B.T.A.

Ambulance Officer :

David John Jones.

Supervisor of Occupation Centre for Mental Defectives :

Miss D. E. Powell, Dip. N.A.M.H.

Chief Clerk :

William Ithel Roberts.

Departmental Senior Clerk :

Arthur Whitley.

Domiciliary Midwives and Domiciliary General Nurses :

At the end of the year under report, the following Midwives and Nurses were employed full-time by the County Council:—

District Midwives	...	...	...	...	5
District Nurse/Midwives	...	...	...	...	34
District Nurses	...	...	...	...	6
Total					45

Domestic Helpers (employed at the end of the year) :

Whole-time	...	...	...	...	2
Part-time	...	...	...	...	111
Total					113

Welfare Officers (also "duly authorised officers" for purposes of the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts) :

The newly appointed Senior Mental Health Officer, Mr. J. C. Seaman, commenced duty 1st December, 1959.

For the purpose of:—

- (1) The Lunacy Act, 1890 (certification of mental patients).
- (2) The Mental Treatment Act, 1930 (admission of temporary patients).
- (3) The Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938 (welfare of mental defectives).
- (4) The National Assistance Act, 1948 (welfare of handicapped persons).

the County is divided into three parts—(a) East, (b) Central, (c) West.

(a) The Eastern Area comprises:—

Officer—Mr. E. W. Arrowsmith, 40, High Street, Mold.
Telephone Number—Mold 111.

District—Buckley U.D., Connah's Quay U.D., Mold U.D., Maelor R.D., Hawarden R.D., Eastern part of Holywell R.D. comprising Parishes of Nannerch, Cilcain, Mold Rural, Nercwys and Northop.

(b) The Central Area comprises:—

Officer—Mr. R. H. Griffiths, County Welfare Offices, Holywell.
Telephone Number—9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays—Holywell 3012.

5 p.m. to 9 a.m. (and on Sundays)—Holywell 2171.

District—Flint M.B., Holywell U.D., Central part of Holywell R.D. comprising Parishes of Halkyn, Brynford, Ysceifiog and Caerwys.

(c) The Western Area comprises :—

Officer—Mr. J. H. E. Hawkins, Welfare Office, Old Emmanuel School,
Vale Road, Rhyl.

Telephone Number—From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays to Fridays
and 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays—Rhyl 2329.

From 5 p.m. to 9 a.m. (and on Sundays)—St. Asaph 3100.

District—Rhyl U.D., Prestatyn U.D., St. Asaph R.D., Western part
of Holywell R.D. comprising the Parishes of Gwaenysgor, Tre-
lawnyd, Llanasa and Whitford.

Ambulance Calls. (This includes calls for Stretcher and Sitting Cases).

8-30 a.m.—7 p.m. weekdays ; 8-30 a.m.—12 noon Saturdays—Ambulance
Control Centre, Holywell. Telephone Holywell 3373 (3 lines).

Night Calls (7 p.m.—8-30 a.m.), and

Week end Calls for the whole County.

**Emergency Calls day or night for the
whole County.**

Telephone Rhyl 1848.

B.—ASSOCIATED OFFICERS.

Clerk of the County Council :

W. Hugh Jones.

Secretary of the Education Committee :

B. Haydn Williams, B.Sc., Ph.D.

County Surveyor :

E. W. W. Richards, A.M.I.C.E., A.M. Inst. Struct. Eng., A.M.I. Mun.
Eng. (since 17th August, 1959).

County Architect :

W. Griffiths, L.R.I.B.A.

County Treasurer :

Sidney Elmitt, A.I.M.T.A.

County Welfare Officer :

T. Wesley Hughes, F. Inst. W.

Children's Officer :

Mrs. L. Davies, B.A.

Health Officers of the Several Sanitary Districts (As on 31st December, 1959).

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District.	Medical Officer.	Public Health Inspector.
Buckley Urban	Dr. Allan Cathcart	Mr. A. G. Watkin, U.D.C. Offices, Buckley.
Connah's Quay Urban	Dr. Allan Cathcart	Mr. C. Stoddart, U.D.C. Offices, Connah's Quay.
Flint Municipal Borough	Dr. D. J. Fraser	Mr. L. Graham, Town Hall, Flint.
Holywell Urban	Dr. D. J. Fraser	Mr. A. Wynne, U.D.C. Offices, Holywell.
Mold Urban	Dr. D. J. Fraser	Mr. C. R. Cresswell, U.D.C. Offices, Mold.
Prestatyn Urban	Dr. Ranyl Rhydwen	Mr. A. Hughes, U.D.C. Offices, Mold.
Rhyl Urban	Dr. Ranyl Rhydwen	Mr. J. M. Edwards, U.D.C. Offices, Prestatyn.
Hawarden Rural (Dist. No. 1)...	Dr. Allan Cathcart	Mr. E. L. L. Jones, U.D.C. Offices, Rhyl (Chief P.H.I.).
Hawarden Rural (Dist. No. 2)...	Dr. Allan Cathcart	Mr. E. G. Black, U.D.C. Offices, Rhyl (Deputy P.H.I.).
Holywell Rural	Dr. D. J. Fraser	Mr. D. Kaye, U.D.C. Offices, Rhyl (Additional P.H.I.).
		Mr. M. Emlyn Thomas, R.D.C. Offices, Hawarden.
		Mr. Watkin Williams, R.D.C. Offices, Hawarden.
		Mr. D. O. Meredith Jones, R.D.C. Offices, Holywell.
		Mr. O. C. R. Roberts, R.D.C. Offices, Holywell. Left 31/7/59.
		Mr. G. T. Tinneswood, R.D.C. Offices, Holywell.
		Mr. R. D. Jones, R.D.C. Offices, Holywell, since 1/9/59.
Maelor Rural	Dr. Allan Cathcart	Mr. S. J. V. James, R.D.C. Offices, Overton, since 1/8/59.
St. Asaph Rural	Dr. Ranyl Rhydwen	Mr. R. P. Barlow, R.D.C. Offices, St. Asaph.
		Mr. R. W. Easton, R.D.C. Offices, St. Asaph.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF
THE COUNTY.

Flintshire has an area of 163,707 acres which includes the Maelor R.D. and the Civil Parish of Marford and Hoseley. The population is 147,000, giving a density of 0.9 persons per acre.

There has been a considerable increase in population since 1940—130,720 to 147,000 in 1959. This increase has been largely due to an influx of population to the developing industrial belt on Deeside.

The County has a considerable industrial belt on Deeside and also factories of varying size outside this belt scattered throughout the County, except on the boundary adjoining Denbighshire which is agricultural. In addition, there is a thriving tourist industry at Rhyl, Prestatyn and the adjoining seaside areas. About two-thirds of the population is engaged in industry and one-third in agriculture and allied work. It is significant that there was full employment in the County at the end of 1959. The unemployment rate for the County at that time was 3.4 % of the working population, and the corresponding national figure was 1.9 %.

The County has adequate services under the National Health Service Act. The main general hospital is centred at Rhyl, but the Eastern half of the County is served by hospitals at Chester and Wrexham. Hospital accommodation for the aged sick is provided at Holywell and St. Asaph and increased accommodation was made available at these hospitals during the year.

The County provides a full range of health services as a Local Health Authority, which include Ambulance Service, Care of Mothers and Children, District Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting, Domestic Helps, Immunisation and Vaccination, Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care. In addition the Health Department provides services for handicapped persons of all classes including blind and deaf and dumb.

Environmental conditions in the County are good and with few exceptions all areas have an adequate supply of piped water, all urban areas, including most villages, have water carriage sanitation. All local authorities have made good progress with the provision of new dwellings, and during the year 1959 the following new dwellings were constructed:—

Private Houses	...	...	...	599
Local Authority Houses	...	...	...	174
				<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	773
				<hr/>

Since 1955 the following new dwellings have been completed :—

Private Houses	...	...	...	2472
Local Authority Houses	...	...	...	1498
				<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	3970
				<hr/>

Of this total, 361 were built to re-house tenants from clearance areas and from unfit houses.

The County, like most seaside authorities, has a considerable problem with caravans and temporary dwellings. This is most acute in a coastal area East of Prestatyn where there are several hundred temporary dwellings and caravans. In this area most of the essential environmental services are inadequate. Little can be done by existing legislation to deal with this unsatisfactory situation as most of the caravans and dwellings have been on the site for many years.

Table 1 (a).

AREA, POPULATION, ETC.

District.	Area in Statutory Acres.	Population (By Census).					
		1901	1911	1921	1931	1951	
Urban—							
Buckley	...	2034	5780	6333	6726	6899	7699
Connah's Quay	...	4214	3396	4596	5060	5980	7365
Flint (Mun. Boro.)	...	3435	4625	5472	6298	7655	14257
Holywell	...	917	2652	2549	3073	3424	8196
Mold	...	854	4263	4873	4659	5137	6436
Prestatyn	...	1640	1261	2036	4415	4512	8809
Rhyl	...	1700	8473	9005	13968	13485	18745
Rural—							
Hawarden	...	31588	15821	20571	24036	26575	34659
Holywell	...	64519	23999	25328	25933	26709	22324
Maelor	...	29749	5057	5176	5102	4761	6760
St. Asaph	...	23057	6158	6766	7347	7752	9858
Total Urban	...	14794	30450	34864	44199	47092	71507
Total Rural	...	148913	51035	57841	62418	65797	73601
Whole County	...	163707	81485	92705	106617	112889	145108

Urban—										
Buckley	...	2646	7345	6895	7622	7670	7700	7710	7690	7690
Con. Quay	...	4214	6505	6420	7455	7350	7380	7670	7850	8030
Flint M.B.	...	6243	13020	11750	14160	14220	14210	14230	14270	14300
Holywell	...	2532	6918	7286	7870	8210	8200	8230	8250	8320
Mold	...	1164	5880	5700	6354	6600	6590	6550	6600	6680
Prestatyn	...	3219	7422	8098	8659	8910	9050	9380	9550	9720
Rhyl	...	1700	16510	18370	18710	19200	19300	19590	19710	19810
Rural—										
Hawarden	...	31576	28750	29760	32450	34980	34940	35890	35360	35520
Holywell	...	58515	20730	20920	21920	22290	22280	22130	22110	22090
Maclor	...	29749	4356	4599	6720	5850	5350	4800	4530	4520
St. Asaph	...	22149	7494	7471	8380	10520	11100	11020	10680	10320
Total Urban	...	21718	63600	64510	70830	72160	72430	73360	73920	74550
Total Rural	...	141989	61330	62750	69470	73640	73670	73840	72680	72450
Total County	...	163707	124930	127260	140300	145800	146100	147200	146600	147000

FLINTSHIRE, 1959.

Live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,354
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.01
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21.61
Total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,406
Infant deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24.21
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23.96
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30.00
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first four weeks)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.42
Early Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.17
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34.50
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.25%
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41

3. FINANCIAL.

The product of a penny rate, computed for the County in respect of the year 1959-60, was £9,190.

4. SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

These are discussed elsewhere in the Report.

5. BIRTHS.

During the year under review, 2,406 births were registered as pertaining to the County, that total being made up as follows:—

			Live Births.		Still Births.		Total.
Legitimate	...	...	2254	...	51	...	2305
Illegitimate	...	...	100	...	1	...	101
			<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	...		2354		52		2406
			<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Compared with the previous year, 1958, these figures show a decrease of 35 live births, and a decrease of 8 still births, the total births thus showing a decrease of 43.

Of the 2,354 live births, 1,219 were males and 1,135 females.

Of the 52 still births, 28 were males and 24 females.

Further reference will be made to these figures when considering the Neo-natal and Infant Death Rates.

The live birth rate per 1,000 population in 1959 was 16.01, which is lower than the rate for England and Wales, namely, 16.5, and is lower than the County rate for 1958 which was 16.29.

The still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 21.61, as compared with the corresponding rate for England and Wales which was 20.7.

Illegitimate Births—The number of illegitimate births fluctuated from year to year. The number rose during the war years to a peak of 69.3 per 1,000 total births in 1947. By 1950 the figure had been reduced to the pre-war level of 43.87 per 1,000 total births. The figures for subsequent years are given below:—

1951	...	39.36	per 1,000 total births.
1952	...	51.52	do.
1953	...	52.85	do.
1954	...	52.07	do.
1955	...	40.00	do.
1956	...	43.64	do.
1957	...	32.05	do.
1958	...	40.42	do.
1959	...	41.98	do.

Births in the various County Districts—Table 2 (a) shows the births Live and Still, Legitimate and Illegitimate; whilst Table 2 (b) shows the birth rates in the County Districts.

Premature Births—All babies weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less at birth are classified as "premature" irrespective of the period of gestation. Out of a total of 149 premature births in 1959, 127 were born in hospitals or Maternity Homes within the National Health Service. Statistics as to the survival of these infants are forwarded to the Ministry of Health by the hospital or home at which the birth occurs. Of the remainder, 19 live births and 3 still births occurred at home.

The following table shows that of the 19 live births at home, 6 were transferred to hospital, 18 survived 28 days.

PREMATURITY.

All items in Table 3 refer to notified births after correction for transfers, so it is unnecessary for me to comment on the premature births as the information is fairly presented in the Table.

Table 2 (b).
BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES 1959.
(LIVE BIRTHS, STILL BIRTHS AND TOTAL BIRTHS).

District.	Number of Births.			Crude rate per 1,000 Population.			* Adjusted rate per 1,000 Population.			Stillbirths. Rate per 1,000 total births.
	Live.	Still.	Total.	Live.	Still.	Total.	Live.	Still.	Total.	
Urban—										
Buckley	98	3	101	12.74	.39	13.13	13.25	.40	13.65	29.70
Connah's Quay	183	2	185	22.79	.25	23.04	21.65	.23	21.88	10.81
Flint M.B.	231	11	242	16.15	.77	16.92	15.83	.75	16.58	45.45
Holywell	161	2	163	19.35	.24	19.59	19.54	.24	19.78	12.27
Mold	117	6	123	17.51	.90	18.41	17.68	.91	18.59	48.78
Prestatyn	117	3	120	12.04	.31	12.35	13.36	.34	13.70	25.00
Rhyl	312	5	317	15.75	.25	16.00	17.01	.27	17.28	15.78
Rural—										
Hawarden	591	10	601	16.64	.28	16.92	16.97	.29	17.26	16.64
Holywell	336	7	343	15.21	.31	15.52	16.88	.34	17.22	20.41
Maelor	78	—	78	17.26	—	17.26	17.60	—	17.60	—
St. Asaph	130	3	133	12.60	.29	12.89	15.50	.35	15.85	22.56
Total Urban	1219	32	1251	16.35	.43	16.78	16.84	.44	17.28	25.58
Total Rural	1135	20	1155	15.66	.28	15.94	16.91	.30	17.21	17.32
Whole County	2354	52	2406	16.01	.35	16.36	16.97	.72	17.34	21.61

* Adjusted by the comparability factor for comparison with other areas.

Table 3.

PREMATURE BIRTHS (i.e., live births and still births of 5½ lbs or less at birth).

1. Number of premature live births notified (as adjusted by transferred notifications):—

(a) In hospital	...	...	...	...	...	101
(b) At home	...	...	...	...	...	19
(c) In private nursing home (see note (1) )	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total						120

2. Number of premature still births notified (as adjusted by transferred notifications):—

(a) In hospital	...	...	...	...	...	26
(b) At home	...	...	...	...	...	3
(c) In private nursing home (see note (1) )	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total						29

Weight at birth. (1)	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS															PREMATURE STILLBIRTHS		
	Born in Hospital (see Note 2)			Born at home and nursed entirely at home			Born at home and trans- ferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in nursing home and nursed entirely there			Born in nursing home & transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in hospital	Born at home	Born in nursing home
	Total (2)	Died within 24 hours of birth (3)	Survived 28 days (4)	Total (5)	Died within 24 hours of birth (6)	Survived 28 days (7)	Total (8)	Died within 24 hours of birth (9)	Survived 28 days (10)	Total (11)	Died within 24 hours of birth (12)	Survived 28 days (13)	Total (14)	Died within 24 hours of birth (15)	Survived 28 days (16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
3 lb. 4 oz. or less (1,500 gms. or less)	7	6	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	1	..
Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz. (1,500-2,000 gms.)	15	3	11	1	..	1	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	1	..
Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz. (2,000-2,250 gms.)	23	..	23	2	..	2	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz. (2,250-2,500 gms.)	56	..	56	10	..	10	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	..
TOTAL	101	9	90	13	..	13	6	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	3	..

NOTES:

- (1) "Private nursing home" includes nursing homes and maternity hospitals and homes not in the National Health Service and Mother and Baby Homes where women are confined in the Home.
- (2) The group under this heading includes cases which may be born in one hospital and transferred to another hospital.
- (3) Births in an ambulance or in the street are listed under the place to which the case is immediately transferred.

Table 4.

DEATHS (GENERAL) 1959.

SUMMARY OF CAUSES.

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Percentage of Total Deaths.
1. Tuberculosis—respiratory ...	9	2	11	.63
2. Tuberculosis—other ...	—	3	3	.17
3. Syphilitic disease ...	5	—	5	.29
4. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections ...	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—
8. Measles ...	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	1	1	.06
10. Malignant Neoplasm—stomach ...	34	26	60	3.47
11. Malignant Neoplasm—lung, bronchus ...	61	5	66	3.81
12. Malignant Neoplasm—breast ...	1	28	29	1.67
13. Malignant Neoplasm—uterus ...	—	13	13	.75
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	86	65	151	8.72
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	5	4	9	.52
16. Diabetes ...	4	6	10	.58
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system ...	107	208	315	18.20
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	185	108	293	16.93
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	19	25	44	2.54
20. Other heart disease ...	78	98	176	10.17
21. Other circulatory diseases ...	33	39	72	4.16
22. Influenza ...	9	10	19	1.10
23. Pneumonia ...	38	31	69	3.99
24. Bronchitis ...	55	25	80	4.62
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	14	5	19	1.10
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	10	5	15	.87
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	5	1	6	.35
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	8	8	16	.92
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	13	—	13	.75
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	1	1	.06
31. Congenital malformations ...	9	11	20	1.15
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	66	77	143	8.26

Table 4—continued.

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Percentage of Total Deaths.
33. Motor vehicle accidents	13	5	18	1.04
34. All other accidents	24	17	41	2.37
35. Suicide	6	5	11	.63
36. Homicide and operations of war	2	—	2	.11
TOTALS	899	832	1731	

DEATHS FROM RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS—Table 4 (a) shows the deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis in the various County Districts.

Table 4 (a).

DEATHS FROM RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS.

County District.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Urban—			
Buckley	—	—	—
Connah's Quay	—	—	—
Flint (M.B.)	—	—	—
Holywell	1	—	1
Mold	—	—	—
Prestatyn	—	—	—
Rhyl	2	—	2
Rural—			
Hawarden	3	1	4
Holywell	2	1	3
Maelor	1	—	1
St. Asaph	—	—	—
TOTAL URBAN	3	—	3
TOTAL RURAL	6	2	8
WHOLE COUNTY	9	2	11

DEATHS FROM MALIGNANT DISEASES.

Table 5 (a) shows the deaths due to malignant disease (cancer) in each of the County Districts, and the rate per 1,000 of the population for each district.

It will be noted that the rates vary considerably from district to district, but the rate is higher for the urban areas (2.56) than the rural areas (1.89). As would be expected the highest rates are in the urban centres with a preponderance of aged in the population (Prestatyn and Rhyl) and the lowest rates in centres with a preponderance of young workers (Connah's Quay, Mold, Hawarden Rural District, Flint M.B. and St. Asaph Rural).

The total death rate from cancer in 1959 was 2.23 per 1,000 of the population. The rate for 1958 was 2.26 per 1,000 population.

As will be seen from Table 5 (b), deaths from cancer show a higher incidence between 45-65 years of age than in any other age group, and this is different from deaths due to other main causes where total deaths tend to increase with advancing age.

In 1959 deaths due to cancer of the lung and bronchus exceeded all other cancer deaths from defined groups. The second highest death rate being due to cancer of the stomach. It is regrettable that so many deaths still occur from cancer of the breast (29), a condition which responds well to early diagnosis and treatment. Deaths due to various forms of leukaemia still remain low (9) and show a decrease compared with 1958 (11).

Table 5 (a).

DEATHS FROM MALIGNANT DISEASES IN THE VARIOUS
COUNTY DISTRICTS.

District and Population.	Sex.	Stomach.	Lung, Bronchus.	Breast.	Uterus.	Other.	Leukaemia.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 Population.
Buckley U.D. (7,690)	M	3	3	—	—	5	—	11	} 2.86
	F	3	—	1	1	6	1	11	
Con. Quay U.D. (8,030)	M	4	6	—	—	2	—	12	} 1.87
	F	—	—	2	1	—	—	3	
Flint M.B. (14,300)	M	1	6	—	—	8	—	15	} 1.68
	F	—	—	2	—	6	1	9	
Holywell U.D. (8,320)	M	—	2	—	—	9	—	11	} 2.40
	F	2	—	1	2	2	1	8	
Mold U.D. (6,680)	M	—	4	—	—	4	—	8	} 1.79
	F	1	1	2	—	—	—	4	
Prestatyn U.D. (9,720)	M	3	5	—	—	12	—	20	} 4.01
	F	1	—	4	1	12	1	19	
Rhyl U.D. (19,810)	M	7	10	—	—	18	1	36	} 3.02
	F	3	2	6	3	9	1	24	
Hawarden R.D. (35,520)	M	6	12	1	—	12	2	33	} 1.52
	F	6	1	3	1	10	—	21	
Holywell R.D. (22,090)	M	9	7	—	—	10	2	28	} 2.58
	F	7	—	5	2	15	—	29	
Maelor R.D. (4,520)	M	—	3	—	—	1	—	4	} 1.99
	F	—	1	2	2	—	—	5	
St. Asaph R.D. (10,320)	M	1	3	—	—	5	—	9	} 1.65
	F	3	—	—	—	5	—	8	
Total Urban (74,550)	M	18	36	—	—	58	1	113	} 2.56
	F	10	3	18	8	35	4	78	
Total Rural (72,450)	M	16	25	1	—	28	4	74	} 1.89
	F	16	2	10	5	30	—	63	
Whole County (147,000)	M	34	61	1	—	86	5	187	} 2.23
	F	26	5	28	13	65	4	141	

Table 5 (b).

AGES OF DEATHS
FROM TUBERCULOSIS, MALIGNANT DISEASES AND HEART AND
CIRCULATORY DISEASES.

Disease.	Sex.	AGE GROUPS.									Total.	
		0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—			
Tuberculosis :—												
Respiratory	M	...	—	—	—	—	1	3	5	—	...	9
"	F	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	...	2
Other	M	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...	—
"	F	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	...	3
Total			—	—	—	—	1	4	6	3		14
Malignant Diseases :—												
Stomach	M	...	—	—	—	—	—	13	11	10	...	34
"	F	...	—	—	—	—	—	8	7	11	...	26
Lung, Bronchus	M	...	—	—	—	—	—	37	19	5	...	61
"	F	...	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	...	5
Breast	M	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	...	1
"	F	...	—	—	—	—	1	12	8	7	...	28
Uterus	F	...	—	—	—	—	—	6	2	5	...	13
Other	M	...	—	—	1	—	3	16	25	41	...	86
"	F	...	—	—	—	1	—	20	28	16	...	65
Leukaemia	M	...	—	1	—	—	—	3	1	—	...	5
"	F	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	...	4
Total			—	1	1	1	5	118	104	98		328
Heart and Circulation :—												
Vascular lesions of nervous system	M	...	—	—	—	1	—	15	44	47	...	107
	F	...	—	—	—	—	2	25	51	103	...	208
Coronary disease, angina	M	...	—	—	—	—	4	73	49	59	...	185
	F	...	—	—	—	—	3	15	35	55	...	108
Hypertension with heart disease	M	...	—	—	—	—	1	2	6	10	...	19
	F	...	—	—	—	—	—	2	9	14	...	25
Other heart	M	...	—	—	—	—	4	8	15	51	...	78
"	F	...	—	—	—	—	3	7	23	65	...	98
Other circulatory	M	...	—	—	—	—	1	6	7	19	...	33
"	F	...	—	—	—	—	1	4	10	24	...	39
Total			—	—	—	1	19	157	249	474		900

DEATHS ATTRIBUTABLE TO INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year 1959, deaths attributable to Infectious Disease were as follows :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...				1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	19
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	69
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	80
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...			6

During the year there were no deaths due to the more severe infectious conditions such as Poliomyelitis, Whooping Cough or Diphtheria. Immunisation against these conditions continued as in previous years, and vaccination against smallpox was also offered to each baby in the County.

During 1958 the only Isolation Hospital remaining in the County at Dobb's Hill ceased to function as an Isolation Hospital, due to lack of demand, and became a hospital for the aged sick.

Although many children contract infectious illnesses, deaths due to these illnesses are now very few, thanks to immunisation and the availability of new drugs for treatment.

DEATHS OF INFANTS AGED UNDER TWELVE MONTHS—During the year 57 infants died before attaining the age of twelve months, and of these 32 were males and 25 females, while 54 were legitimate and 3 were illegitimate.

The Infant Mortality Rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) is therefore 24.21, which is higher than the rate for England and Wales, namely 22.00.

The causes of death of the 57 infants are given in Table 6 (a). In the present state of our knowledge little can be done to reduce the number of deaths due to Congenital Malformations.

It will be noted that the greatest number of deaths are due to ill-defined causes and to certain defined illness, but more can still be done to reduce the number of deaths. Deaths due to chest conditions, diarrhoea and accidents are all preventable and can be eliminated with a high standard of child care. A great deal has been done to raise the standards of child care in the past years and the medical and nursing staff of the department give every possible help to parents. It is only fair to state that some parents do not avail themselves of the facilities provided for them and others are unco-operative and do not put into practice the advice given to them.

If parents availed themselves of the medical and nursing services relating to child welfare, the loss of infant life in the County could be materially reduced.

Infant deaths in the various County Districts are shown in Table 6 (a), and the Infant Mortality Rates for each district in Table 6 (b).

Included in the above total of 57 are 41 deaths of infants who failed to survive the first four weeks of life, and 31 of these died within the first week of life, and the figures for the various County Districts are shown in Table 6 (c), also in Table 6 (d) the number of infants who died within one week of birth are shown.

Table 6 (a).

INFANTILE DEATHS, 1959.

(Under 1 year of age).

District.	MALES.			FEMALES.			Infants.	
	Legit.	Illegit.	Total.	Legit.	Illegit.	Total.	Legit. and	Illegit.
Urban—								
Buckley	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Connah's Quay	3	—	3	3	—	3	6	6
Flint (M.B.)	6	2	8	2	—	2	10	10
Holywell	5	—	5	3	—	3	8	8
Mold	1	—	1	1	—	1	2	2
Prestatyn	3	—	3	2	1	3	6	6
Rhyl	6	—	6	2	—	2	8	8
Rural—								
Hawarden	3	—	3	6	—	6	9	9
Holywell	2	—	2	2	—	2	4	4
Maclor	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	2
St. Asaph	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1
Total Urban	25	2	27	13	1	14	41	41
Total Rural	5	—	5	11	—	11	16	16
Whole County	30	2	32	24	1	25	57	57

The causes of death were:—

Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	6
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	2
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	13
Other defied or ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	30
Accidents (other than motor vehicle accidents)	...	...	...	...	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1

Table 6 (b).

INFANT MORTALITY, 1959.

(Children aged under 12 months).

Rate per 1,000 TOTAL Live Births.

District.	MALES.			FEMALES.			Infants.	
	Legit.	Illeg.	Total.	Legit.	Illeg.	Total.	Legit.	and Illeg.
Urban—								
Buckley ...	10.20	—	10.20	...	—	—	...	10.20
Connah's Quay ...	16.39	—	16.39	...	16.39	—	...	32.78
Flint (M.B.) ...	25.97	8.66	34.63	...	8.66	—	...	43.29
Holywell ...	31.06	—	31.06	...	18.63	—	...	49.69
Mold ...	8.55	—	8.55	...	8.55	—	...	17.09
Prestatyn ...	25.64	—	25.64	...	17.09	8.55	...	51.28
Rhyl ...	19.23	—	19.23	...	6.41	—	...	25.64
Rural—								
Hawarden ...	5.08	—	5.08	...	10.15	—	...	15.23
Holywell ...	5.95	—	5.95	...	5.95	—	...	11.90
Maelor ...	—	—	—	...	25.64	—	...	25.64
St. Asaph ...	—	—	—	...	7.69	—	...	7.69
Total Urban ...	20.51	1.64	22.15	...	10.66	.82	...	33.63
Total Rural ...	4.40	—	4.40	...	9.69	—	...	14.10
Whole County ...	12.74	.85	13.59	...	10.20	.42	...	24.21

Table 6 (c).

NEO-NATAL DEATHS, 1959.

(Under 4 weeks of age).

District.	MALES.			FEMALES.			Infants.	
	Legit.	Illegit.	Total.	Legit.	Illegit.	Total.	Legit. and	Illegit.
Urban—								
Buckley	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Connah's Quay	1	—	1	1	—	1	2	2
Flint (M.B.)	4	2	6	2	—	2	8	8
Holywell	2	—	2	3	—	3	5	5
Mold	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prestatyn	2	—	2	2	1	3	5	5
Rhyl	5	—	5	2	—	2	7	7
Rural—								
Hawarden	3	—	3	4	—	4	7	7
Holywell	1	—	1	2	—	2	3	3
Maelor	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	2
St. Asaph	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1
Total Urban	15	2	17	10	1	11	28	28
Total Rural	4	—	4	9	—	9	13	13
Whole County	19	2	21	19	1	20	41	41

Table 6 (d).

INFANTILE DEATHS, 1959.

(Infants under 1 week of age).

District.	MALES.			FEMALES.			Infants.	
	Legit.	Illegit.	Total.	Legit.	Illegit.	Total.	Legit. and	Illegit.
Urban—								
Buckley	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Connah's Quay	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1
Flint (M.B.)	4	2	6	1	—	1	7	7
Holywell	2	—	2	2	—	2	4	4
Mold	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prestatyn	1	—	1	1	—	1	2	2
Rhyl	3	—	3	2	—	2	5	5
Rural—								
Hawarden	2	—	2	4	—	4	6	6
Holywell	1	—	1	1	—	1	2	2
Maelor	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	2
St. Asaph	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1
Total Urban	11	2	13	7	—	7	20	20
Total Rural	3	—	3	8	—	8	11	11
Whole County	14	2	16	15	—	15	31	31

MATERNAL MORTALITY—There was one death attributable to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion. Whenever a maternal death occurs, the Medical Officer of Health has to obtain a confidential report from the Midwife, General Medical Practitioner, Hospital and Consultant Obstetrician giving complete details as to ante-natal care, treatment during confinement, and post-natal care. This information is then forwarded to a Regional Assessor (Professor Jeffcoate of Liverpool), who may ask for further information, or, if satisfied with that already provided, forward the report to the Ministry of Health.

The whole object of this work is to try and improve the Midwifery Service provided in the County both in hospital and at the patient's home. Careful inquiries into the cause of maternal deaths give valuable information and enable steps to be taken to improve still further a service which has a very high standard.

There has been a steady fall over the years in maternal deaths in the County and the fact that only one death occurred from this cause in 1959 indicates a very satisfactory standard of hospital and domiciliary midwifery.

DEATHS IN THE VARIOUS COUNTY DISTRICTS—Table 7 shows the total number of deaths of males and females in the County Districts, and the crude and adjusted Mortality Rates for those Districts.

Table 7.

DEATHS IN THE SEVERAL DISTRICTS.

(All ages—all causes).

District.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Crude Rate per 1000 Population.	* Rate Adjusted per 1000 Population.
Urban—					
Buckley	... 48 ...	... 43 ...	... 91 ...	11.83	... 13.25
Connah's Quay	... 42 ...	... 27 ...	... 69 ...	8.59	... 11.85
Flint M.B.	... 76 ...	... 55 ...	... 131 ...	9.16	... 12.27
Holywell	... 64 ...	... 49 ...	... 113 ...	13.58	... 14.39
Mold	... 48 ...	... 34 ...	... 82 ...	12.27	... 14.23
Prestatyn	... 80 ...	... 101 ...	... 181 ...	18.62	... 14.15
Rhyl	... 157 ...	... 161 ...	... 318 ...	16.05	... 13.32
Rural—					
Hawarden	... 168 ...	... 141 ...	... 309 ...	8.70	... 10.96
Holywell	... 132 ...	... 138 ...	... 270 ...	12.22	... 11.61
Maelor	... 32 ...	... 21 ...	... 53 ...	11.72	... 11.48
St. Asaph	... 52 ...	... 62 ...	... 114 ...	11.05	... 10.72
Total Urban	... 515	470	985	13.21	13.47
Total Rural	... 384	362	746	10.29	11.22
Whole County	... 899	832	1731	11.77	12.36

* For purposes of comparison with other areas.

The following information is extracted from the statistics supplied by the Registrar General :—

Urban Districts.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths in age groups 45-64 ...	141	80	221
Deaths in age groups 65 and over ...	321	363	684
	<hr/> 462	<hr/> 443	<hr/> 905

Rural Districts.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths in age group 45-64 ...	109	67	176
Deaths in age group 65 and over ...	249	271	520
	<hr/> 358	<hr/> 338	<hr/> 696

Section B.**HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE COUNTY.****ADMINISTRATION.**

The County Medical Officer is responsible to the Health Committee for the control, supervision and co-ordination of all services provided under the National Health Service Acts, and parts of the National Assistance Act and Public Health Act.

The Health Department is administered centrally from Mold, there being no divisional administration.

In addition to the Health Committee which meets quarterly, there are three Area Care and Nursing Sub-Committees and an Ambulance Sub-Committee. On all these committees, in addition to County Council members, there are representatives of district Councils, statutory bodies and voluntary organisations.

The County Medical Officer advises the Children's Department and the Welfare Department on all medical matters affecting their work.

Voluntary Organisations—Flintshire is fortunate in having several active voluntary organisations which render valuable service to the public and help the Health Department in carrying out its duties.

I would like, once again, to thank the Child Welfare Voluntary Committees for their valuable and loyal service during the year. During the year various committees purchased equipment worth £49/17/5 for use in the clinics and this shows the active interest which is taken by members of the voluntary committees in the work of the clinics.

These Committees also help individual mothers in need, and make available at reduced cost suitable fireguards for use in homes with small children.

I would like again to pay tribute to the members of the W.V.S., the British Red Cross Society, St. John's Ambulance Brigade and the St. Asaph Diocesan Moral Welfare Association, and to the many individuals who have given ready help to the department during the year.

CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE.

Expectant and Nursing Mothers—In 1956 the Health Committee agreed that "combined" ante-natal clinics should be established throughout the County as staff and facilities become available. At "combined" clinics the medical staff are provided by the St. Asaph Maternity Hospital and the nurses by the Health Department, and clinics are held in County Council premises.

The proposals approved by the Health Committee were for five "combined" ante-natal clinics to cover the County. The existing local authority ante-natal clinics to continue as midwives clinics, where relaxation, mothercraft and other valuable health education work could be undertaken.

Three combined clinics are now working at Rhyl, Prestatyn and Holywell. These are well attended, provide excellent facilities and are much appreciated by mothers and general practitioners. It was hoped to open another clinic on Deeside at Flint or Shotton, but this has been deferred for the time being as the Consultant Ante-Natal Clinic at the Catherine Gladstone Maternity Home, Mancot, is adequately meeting the needs of the area. The remaining combined clinic was planned for Mold, which is in the area of the Wrexham, Powys and Mawddach Hospital Management Committee, and discussions about this clinic have taken place with the Consultant Obstetrician for the Group. It has been agreed to establish a "combined" clinic at Mold where the hospital can provide the necessary medical staff to do the work.

During the year County Ante-natal Clinics were held at Mold, Shotton, Saltney and Buckley. As mentioned earlier, these clinics will cease to function when the five "combined" ante-natal clinics have been established. This means they will cease to function as ante-natal clinics, but it is hoped to establish at these and other centres mothercraft clinics attended by midwives and health visitors.

Already mothercraft classes were established at Buckley, Holywell and Rhyl.

I would like to thank Mr. Parry-Jones, the Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist to the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Management Committee, and his staff for their valuable work at the "combined" clinics during the year.

Attendances at ante-natal clinics for the past ten years are given below :—

	Year :	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Expectant Mothers	...	641	473	325	369	292	305	1045	1504	2019	2593
Attendances	...	1822	1208	939	1193	696	705	1271	2113	3062	3868

It will be noted that attendances have gone up steadily since combined clinics were established in 1956.

The Family Planning Clinic at Flint operated by the Family Planning Association continued to function during the year. A very hard working body of voluntary helpers run the clinic, which is attended by a doctor and nurse, both trained by the Family Planning Association. The clinic is held once a fortnight at the County Clinic at Flint. During 1959 twenty-three sessions were held and in all 58 patients attended. Valuable help and advice is given at this clinic, also to women with problems of sub-fertility, marital difficulties and advice to young persons before marriage.

Maternity outfits are provided on request to all expectant mothers having a domiciliary confinement. Stocks are held at the Health Department, clinics, and the homes of midwives. During 1959, 474 outfits were issued compared with 543 in 1958.

A—Ante-Natal Cases.

1. Number of Sessions held (i.e., number of times Clinic opened during the year) when :—

(a) A Medical Officer was in attendance

(b) A Medical Officer was NOT in attendance

2. Number of women who attended the Clinic during the year

3. Number of NEW cases included in (2) above (i.e., women who had NOT previously attended any clinic of the Local Health Authority during the current pregnancy)

4. Total number of attendances made by women, included in (2) above, during the year

B—Post-Natal Cases.

5. Number of Post-Natal cases who attended the Clinic during the year

6. Number of new cases, included in (5) above (i.e., women who had not previously attended any Post-Natal Clinic of the Local Health Authority after last confinement)

7. Total number of attendances, made by women in Section 5 above, during the year

Bagillt.	Buckley.	Caergwle.*	Flint. †	Holywell. †	Mold.	Prestatyn. †	Rhyl. †	Saltney	Shotton.	Totals.
10	18	..	..	50	23	25	50	23	24	223
..	..	10	48	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
11	86	7	68	1110	207	141	861	61	41	2593
8	30	7	59	495	74	59	377	23	19	1151
36	114	21	239	1815	261	187	1041	86	65	3868
..	..	..	..	225	12	32	119	..	..	418
..	..	..	..	187	4	20	119	..	..	330
..	..	..	..	255	12	32	119	..	..	418

* Midwives' Clinic—opened 14/4/59.

† Midwives' Clinic opened 4/11/59.

+ Clinics at Mold, Prestatyn, and Rhyl are combined with Hospital Consultants' Clinics.

Name and Address of Home or Hostel	Number of Beds			Number of admissions (ignoring re-admissions after confinement) during the year	Number of admissions in Col. (6) for which the authority was responsible.	Average length of stay	
(1)	Total beds (excl. mat. and lab. and cots)	Mat. (excl. lab. and isolation)	Labour beds	Cots		Ante-natal	† Post-natal
(a) Provided by the Authority :— Bersham Hall—owned jointly by the North Wales Counties of Anglesey, Caernarvon, Denbigh, Flint, Merioneth and Montgomery, and administered on their behalf by the C.M.O., Denbighshire.	18	..	1	12	57 (i.e., Total admissions from all Constituent Authorities)	16	31 days
(b) Provided or used by Voluntary Organisations with which the Authority make arrangements under Sec. 22 (1) or to which the Authority make payment under Sec. 22 (5).	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

These figures relate to Flintshire cases only

(c) Number of cases sent by the Authority during the year to homes other than those mentioned in (a) and (b) above, payment being made on an "ad hoc" basis :—

(1) Expectant Mothers	..	..	..	1
(2) Post-Natal Cases	..	..	..	—

† Exclusive of the lying-in period.

Child Welfare—Child Welfare Clinics are held at 21 centres in the County. At ten centres clinics are held in County premises and at these centres facilities are good for mothers and the staff.

At eleven centres clinics are held in rented premises, and the standard of accommodation and facilities varies considerably from centre to centre. Every effort has been made to improve the conditions at these centres, but conditions at Bagillt, Broughton, Buckley, Connah's Quay, Greenfield and Mancot are still unsatisfactory. The Authority has approved the erection of new clinics at Connah's Quay, Mancot and Buckley and a start will be made on the new clinic at Mancot early in 1960.

When our present new clinic programme has been completed it is proposed to recommend the erection of new clinics at Greenfield, Bagillt and Broughton.

During the year a house was purchased at St. Asaph for use as a clinic and a flat for the district nurse. The new clinic premises at St. Asaph came into use on 10th September, 1959.

At each centre a weekly clinic is held, the doctor attending every other week. Each clinic has a Voluntary Committee and the members give excellent service in arranging for the sale of foods and helping generally with the running of the clinic.

At Holywell and Shotton Clinics, Dr. M. M. McLean, the Consultant Paediatrician to the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Management Committee, attends regularly to conduct a Consultative Child Welfare Clinic. Cases are referred to her by our own medical staff and general practitioners and Dr. McLean also arranges to follow up her own hospital cases at these sessions.

In addition to the fixed clinics referred to, the Mobile Clinic continued to attend at the following centres:—

Dyserth,
Rhuddlan,
Penyffordd and Penymynydd,
Halkyn,
Ewloe,
Garden City,
Leeswood.

The clinic visits each centre every two weeks, and a doctor and Health Visitor attends each session. The clinic provides a "general purpose" session at each visit which means that in addition to Child Welfare work and Immunisation, expectant mothers, school children and other work as necessary is undertaken. At two centres, arrangements have been made for the clinic towing vehicle to collect mothers and children from surrounding areas,

The Child Welfare Centre is an integral part of the National Health Service and continues to fulfil a valuable function.

In the past the emphasis at each centre was on the prevention of disorders arising from faulty feeding, diarrhoea and vomiting and infectious diseases. Now the aim is more constructive and is to secure the optimum health of every child. The Child Welfare Centre staff work with the General Practitioners and hospital staff to achieve this aim and there is close co-operation between them, particularly through the valuable link of the Health Visitor.

Care of Premature Infants—During the year under review, the number of domiciliary premature live births was 19, and the number of premature live births in private nursing homes was nil, a total of 19.

Of the 19 births at home, 13 were nursed entirely at home and 6 were transferred to hospital. Of the 19 nursed at home all survived 28 days. Of the 6 who were born at home and were transferred to hospital, 5 survived 28 days. There is no special domiciliary provision for premature live births, but liaison with the City Hospital, Chester, and St. Asaph General Hospital has always been good, and admission of cases readily obtained.

Supply of Dried Milk, etc.—At each Centre members of the Voluntary Committee arrange for the purchase and sale of certain proprietary dried milk and other foods.

Table 10 (a).

	Year :	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Number of Registered Live Births ...		2303	2289	2215	2154	2310	2294	2389	2354
Children who attended during the year and who, at the end of the year, were :—									
(a) Under 1 year of age ...		1378	1411	1434	1813	1522	1661	1623	2566
(b) Between 1-5 years ...		2262	2269	2318	2313	2275	2359	2517	2711
Total attendances ...		28846	29941	29181	29166	32505	33179	33240	35628

Table 10 (b).

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES—SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCES, 1959.

Description.	Baillie	Bodelwyddan	Broughton	Buckley	Caergwile	Gaerwys	Gounah's Quay	Flint	Greenfield	Holywell	Leeswood	Mancot & Pentre	Mold	Mostyn	Penley	Prestatyn	Rhyl	* Talacre	Saltney	Shotton	† St. Asaph	TOTALS
1. Number of Sessions	52	24	51	48	50	23	49	48	51	51	50	52	51	22	24	51	52	15	48	51	24	887
2. Number of children who first attended during the year and who at their first attendance were under 1 year of age	92	55	56	110	69	28	208	184	85	146	36	162	184	29	69	148	282	19	73	243	55	2333
3. Number of children who attended during the year and were born in:—																						
1959	44	43	48	108	58	20	140	134	59	108	28	121	150	20	64	96	180	15	58	146	38	1678
1958	56	39	12	82	57	28	69	96	46	188	39	87	121	23	33	65	122	10	16	118	27	1334
1957-1954	44	30	10	39	38	22	27	87	47	97	35	80	114	20	49	82	84	6	21	115	20	1067
4. Total number of children who attended during the year	144	112	70	229	153	70	236	317	152	393	102	288	385	63	146	243	386	31	95	379	85	4079
5. Number of attendances during the year made by children who at date of attendance were:—																						
(a) Under 1 year	1035	424	1076	1708	1119	135	1858	1829	1158	1221	661	1577	1924	237	489	1321	2234	76	1121	1842	386	23431
(b) 1 year but under 2 years	820	128	297	268	199	47	382	326	152	437	126	437	455	52	195	277	319	45	267	339	118	5186
(c) 2 years but under 5 years	202	131	379	81	84	52	270	183	162	326	82	168	474	54	274	462	214	36	406	486	92	4618
6. Total attendances during the year	1557	683	1752	2057	1402	234	2510	2338	1472	1984	869	2182	2853	343	958	2060	2767	157	1794	2667	596	33235

* Talacre Clinic opened 19/8/59. + was formerly visited by the Mobile Clinic.

N.B.—Figures relating to Centres visited by the Mobile Clinic (which are not included above) appear in the following table. The Mobile Clinic also visits Leeswood for fortnightly Medical Officers' sessions—all figures, however, are given in the above table.

Table 10 (c).

MOBILE CLINICS—SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCES, 1959.

Description.		Dyserth.		Ewloe.		Halkyn.		Rhuddlan.		Penyffordd.		Sealand.		TOTALS.
Number of Sessions	...	24	...	24	...	24	...	24	...	24	...	23	...	143
Number of children who first attended during the year and who at their first attendance were under 1 year of age	...	28	...	33	...	49	...	38	...	32	...	53	...	233
Number of children who attended during the year and were born in :—														
1959	...	19	...	29	...	41	...	27	...	25	...	39	...	180
1958	...	22	...	11	...	37	...	33	...	29	...	37	...	169
1957-54	...	15	...	15	...	48	...	20	...	22	...	21	...	141
Total number of children who attended during the year	...	56	...	55	...	126	...	80	...	76	...	97	...	490
Number of attendances during the year by children who at date of attendance were :—														
(a) Under 1 year	...	199	...	307	...	314	...	218	...	183	...	320	...	1541
(b) 1 year but under 2 years	...	40	...	89	...	87	...	85	...	53	...	74	...	428
(c) 2 years but under 5 years	...	21	...	54	...	183	...	69	...	41	...	56	...	424
Total attendances during the year	...	260	...	450	...	584	...	372	...	277	...	450	...	2393

N.B.—The Mobile Clinic also visits Leeswood. The statistics for this Clinic, however, appear in Table 10 (b).

WELFARE FOOD SERVICE.

The distribution of Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, A. and D. Vitamin Tablets and Orange Juice) has again been carried out successfully during the year with the continued co-operation of the W.V.S., W.I., Welfare Centre Voluntary Committees and Village Shopkeepers.

DISTRIBUTION CENTRES.

During the course of the year one new centre was opened at the R.A.F. Camp, Sealand, and distribution at this centre has proceeded smoothly.

The total number of centres is thus 55, and they can be classified as follows :—

Clinics	...	...	...	25
W.V.S.	...	...	...	4
Shops	...	...	...	13
Private Households	...	...	...	6
Hospitals	...	...	...	1
R.A.F. Camp	...	...	...	1
Total				55

STORAGE DEPOTS.

These are located at Fronfraith, Russell Road, Rhyl, and 40, High Street, Mold. The administrative office being also at the latter address.

SUPPLIES.

Supplies of Welfare Foods are ordered from Messrs. S.P.D. Ltd., Liverpool, and Messrs. Aber Carriers Ltd., Welshpool, acting as agents for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and direct deliveries are made as follows :—

				S.P.D. Ltd. (Liverpool).		Aber Carriers Welshpool.
Rhyl Depot	...	...	...	—	...	1
Mold Depot	...	...	...	1	...	—
Clinics	...	...	...	1	...	1
W.V.S.	...	...	...	1	...	—
Shops	...	...	...	3	...	10
Private Households	...	...	...	—	...	3
Hospitals	...	...	...	—	...	1
				6		16

The remaining centres are supplied from the Authority's Storage Depots, thus :—

			Rhyl Depot.		Mold Depot.
Clinics	...	...	4	...	19
Shops	...	...	1	...	4
W.V.S.	...	...	1	...	2
Private Households	...	...	—	...	3
Other (R.A.F. Camp, Sealand)	...	...	—	...	1
			<u>6</u>		<u>29</u>

TRANSPORT.

Deliveries are made from our two Storage Depots by the vehicle which is used to tow the Mobile Clinic. Any emergency requirements are delivered by the Welfare Foods Clerk in his private car.

FOODS DISTRIBUTED.

Issues to beneficiaries, and losses through breakages, etc., during the year were as follows :—

		National Dried Milk.		Cod Liver Oil.		Vitamin Tablets.		Orange Juice.
Issued against coupons	...	42627	...	7380	...	5118	...	56028
Issued to Hospitals	...	858	...	—	...	—	...	108
Issued to Day Nurseries	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	168
Issued at 4/- per tin	...	1017	...	—	...	—	...	—
		<u>44502</u>		<u>7380</u>		<u>5118</u>		<u>56304</u>
Out of date, damaged, etc., and returned to M.A.F.F.	...	187	...	—	...	—	...	—
Sent for analysis	...	2	...	—	...	—	...	1
Losses through breakages, etc., during transit	...	53	...	26	...	2	...	441
		<u>53</u>		<u>26</u>		<u>2</u>		<u>441</u>
Total	...	<u>44744</u>		<u>7406</u>		<u>5120</u>		<u>56746</u>

SUMMARY OF COUPONS AND STAMPS.

		Issues.		Charge.		Amount Due.				Amount Received.			
					s. d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
N.D.M.													
(a) By stamps	...	41794	...	2	4	...	4875	19	4	...	4873	1	0
(b) Free	...	833	...	—	...	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	
(c) Issues at 4/-	...	1017	...	4	0	...	203	8	0	...	203	8	0
C.L.O.													
Free	...	7380	...	—	...	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	
A. & D.													
Free	...	5118	...	—	...	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	
O.J.													
(a) By stamps	...	55962	...	5	...	1165	17	6	...	1164	16	3	
(b) Free	...	66	...	—	...	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	
Total coupons		112170	Total cash		£6245	4	10			£6241	5	3	

Dental Care—The County Council has a duty to provide dental treatment for expectant mothers and children under 5 years of age—as these two groups are “priority groups.”

At the end of the year one Principal Dental Officer, three full-time Dental Officers and two part-time Dental Officers were employed.

Although the Dental Staff is still very much below establishment, treatment was given to a limited number of persons in the priority groups—particularly so to children under 5 years of age.

The following table gives information as to the dental care and treatment given to children under 5 years and to expectant mothers during the year.

DENTAL CARE AND TREATMENT OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

A. NUMBERS PROVIDED WITH DENTAL CARE :

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ..	58	57	57	36
Children under Five ..	229	227	227	138

B. FORMS OF DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED :

	Scalings and Gum Treat- ment	Fillings	Silver Nitrate Treat- ment	Crowns or Inlays	Extrac- tions	General Anaes- thetics	DENTURES PROVIDED		Radio- graphs
							Full Upper or Lower	Partial Upper or Lower	
Expect- ant and Nursing Mothers	10	46	1	..	183	26	6	6	1
Children under Five	1	19	38	..	315	205	..	..	..

Total number of sessions (i.e., equivalent complete half days devoted to maternity and child welfare patients during the year) ... 90

DOMICILARY MIDWIFERY.

The policy of the Authority of employing District Nurse/Midwives has been further implemented during the year. With the fall in home confinements this means more compact areas for the nursing staff and also makes it easier to arrange relief during periods of sickness and holidays. This has a further advantage that we are able to cover most relief work with our existing staff, and so reducing greatly the number of staff employed on casual relief work. At the end of the year the Authority employed 5 midwives and 34 District Nurse/Midwives. The 5 midwives have agreed to do a certain amount of general nursing duties as the need arises.

All equipment used by midwives has been brought up-to-date and all the staff are fully equipped.

Regular staff meetings have been held each quarter attended by the County Medical Officer and the Superintendent Nursing Officer. These meetings have proved valuable in bringing new matters to the notice of the staff and enabling them to discuss problems of common interest.

I would like, once again, to thank the staff of the St. Asaph Maternity Hospital for their co-operation during the year and the General Practitioners in the County.

A report from the County Supervisor on the midwifery nursing service in the County is given below :—

COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

During 1959 forty-three Midwives employed by the County Council have practised midwifery. In addition to this, seven temporary part-time midwives carried out relief duties for short periods during the first part of the year. Of the permanent staff five have carried out midwifery duties only.

It has been found necessary to arrange for two other midwives, who originally carried out midwifery duties only, to do some general nursing work. This step has had to be taken because of the decrease in domiciliary confinements. Arrangements have already been made to extend this to the remaining full-time midwives.

If the recommendation of the Cranbrook Committee concerning the screening of patients is strictly carried out there should be an increase in domiciliary confinements. The domiciliary midwife would welcome more deliveries of mothers in their own homes where the pregnancy is normal and the home conditions are satisfactory and a less number of mothers and babies to visit who have been delivered in hospital and discharged before the 14th day of the puerperium. The midwife who chooses domiciliary work expects to care for the mother during the ante-natal period, attend the confinement and complete the nursing of her during the puerperium. This is the work she is qualified to do. Seeing the pregnancy through from beginning to end is the most satisfying part of her work.

Twelve midwives have completed a course of instruction in relaxation and ante-natal exercises. The remainder of the staff will complete this in the new year. Ante-natal classes giving instruction to expectant mothers have already commenced in Shotton. Groups of midwives are planning to organise classes in other parts of the County as soon as the remaining midwives have completed the course of instruction in relaxation and ante-natal exercises. These classes are quite distinct from ante-natal clinics and provide instruction in the preparation for the confinement and do not include the clinical examination of the mother.

There have been regular meetings of the Flintshire Branch of the Royal College of Midwives. A study day held at H.M. Stanley Hospital, St. Asaph, proved very instructive and was appreciated by the Midwives who were able to attend. In accordance with the Central Midwives Board rules three domiciliary midwives have attended a post graduate course under Rule G. 1, and three have taken a one month's course at H.M. Stanley Hospital under Rule G. 2.

Five teaching midwives have taken thirteen pupils for their three months Part II District Midwifery Training. Twelve pupils were successful in passing their examination, one passed after the second attempt. Four lectures have been given to pupil midwives in H.M. Stanley Hospital. The pupils have been seen twenty-four times and practical work has been observed on nine of these occasions.

Three district nurse/midwives have been appointed to the following districts, Llanasa, Flint and Hanmer, and three have been employed as full-time relief staff. One district nurse/midwife has retired, one has resigned to take a Health Visitors' course of training and one has left to take up hospital nursing in Canada.

All except three midwives have now been issued with up to date midwifery bags. During the year a combined ante-natal and midwifery nursing bag has been devised, thus keeping the essential equipment needed in a compact space. Gradually these will replace the older equipment. The contents of the bags are kept up to date and replacements are made when necessary.

Each midwife has been visited during the year for the purpose among other things of seeing practical work and for examination of the records. In all one hundred and nineteen visits have been made for this purpose. A number of other visits, interviews and seeing nurses in groups have also been carried out and these are quoted in the report on the Domiciliary Nursing Services. Thirty visits have been paid to ante-natal clinics.

The two maternity homes have been visited on seven occasions according to the Central Midwives Board Rule, Section E, Part 4, and four visits to one maternity hospital according to Section E, Part 3. Thirty-six midwives in institutions have notified their intention to practise.

The following Central Midwives Board notifications have been received :—

(a) From Domiciliary Midwives :—

75 Artificial Feeding ; 3 Puerperal Pyrexia ; 2 Ophthalmia Neonatorum ; 23 Medical Aids ; 3 Liability to be a Source of Infection ; 2 Neo-natal Deaths and 5 Stillbirths.

(b) From two Maternity Homes :—

13 Artificial Feeding ; 1 Puerperal Pyrexia ; 2 Medical Aids ; 1 Neo-natal Death ; 7 Stillbirths.

An off-duty rota has been devised which enables each district nurse/midwife to know in advance when she will be free to make arrangements. The staff is divided into seven groups. In an emergency or for special occasions alterations of off duty periods can be made within the group. There is also an arrangement within the groups to provide adequate cover in an emergency. We have no special arrangement for night duty relief as this is provided for in the "off-duty rota" already referred to.

The co-operation of the midwives and help received in the Medical Department has been very much appreciated.

Duty as Local Supervising Authority—It is the duty of the Local Health Authority to supervise the work of all midwives who have notified their intention to practise in the area, irrespective of whether they are employed as domiciliary midwives by the Authority or by Hospital Management Committees, or are engaged in private practice.

Table 13 shows the number of midwives who were in practice in the area on 31st December, 1959, while Table 14 shows the number of supervisory visits paid to those midwives during the year by the County Nursing Officer, who also acts as Non-medical Supervisor of Midwives.

Number of Deliveries attended by Midwives in the Area during the year 1959.

Domiciliary Cases.

	Doctor not booked.				Doctor booked.		Totals	Cases in Institutions
	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (2)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child (3)	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (either the booked Doctor or another) (4)		Doctor not present at time of delivery of child (5)			
(1)							(6)	(7)
(a) Midwives employed by the Authority	4	..	162	305	471	..		
(b) Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations :— (i) Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Sec. 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	..	..	..	..	..	..		..
(ii) Otherwise (including Hospitals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act)	..	..	..	..	..	..		..
(c) Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act	..	..	..	..	..	..		1869
(d) Midwives in Private Practice (including Midwives employed in Nursing Homes)	..	..	..	..	..	..		..
Totals	4	..	162	305	471	..		1869

(e) Number of cases delivered in institutions but attended by domiciliary midwives on discharge from institutions and before the fourteenth day ... 1360

(f) Breast Feeding—Number of domiciliary cases in which the infant was wholly breast fed at the fourteenth day ... 274

Table 12.
ADMINISTRATION OF INHALATIONAL ANALGESICS
(Domiciliary Midwives).

	No. of domiciliary midwives practising in the area at end of year who were qualified to administer inhalational analgesics in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board (2)	No. of sets of apparatus for the administration of inhalational analgesics in use at end of year		When doctor was present at time of delivery of child		When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child		No. of cases in which inhalational analgesics were administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year :		No. of cases in which pethidine was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year :	
		Gas & Air (3)	Tri-lene (4)	Gas & Air (5)	Tri-lene (6)	Gas & Air (7)	Tri-lene (8)	When doctor was present at time of delivery of child (9)	When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child (10)	When doctor was present at time of delivery of child (9)	When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child (10)
(1)											
(a) Domiciliary Midwives employed directly by Local Health Authority ...	39 *	29	6	73	25	135	120	75	195		
(b) Domiciliary Midwives employed under Sec. 23 by voluntary organisations as agents of Local Health Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Domiciliary Midwives employed under Sec. 23 by hospital authorities as agents of Local Health Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Domiciliary Midwives in private practice or employed by organisations not acting as agents of Local Health Authority	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	40 *	29	6	73	25	135	120	75	195		

Table 13.

MIDWIVES IN PRACTICE ON 31st DECEMBER, 1959.

	Midwives				
	Domiciliary		in		
	Midwives.		Institutions.		Total.
(a) Midwives employed by the Authority	39*	...	—	...	39*
(b) Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations :—					
(i) Under arrangement with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	...	...	—	...	—
(ii) Otherwise (including Hospitals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act)	...	...	—	...	—
(c) Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act :—					
(i) Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	...	...	—	...	—
(ii) Otherwise	...	...	—	36	36
(d) Midwives in Private Practice (including Midwives employed in Nursing Homes)	...	...	1	...	1
Total	...	40*	36	...	76*

* In addition, 4 midwives were employed for short periods on a casual basis to do relief duty during the year.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

The actual number of births notified in the County during the year under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the number as adjusted by transferred notifications, were as follows:—

Table 14.

	Live Births.			Stillbirths.			Totals.		
	Actual.	Adjusted.		Actual.	Adjusted.		Actual.	Adjusted.	
Domiciliary	... 463	458	...	7	7	...	470	465	
Institutional	... 1777	1817	...	25	40	...	1802	1857	
Totals	... 2240	2275		32	47		2272	2322	

It will be noted by reference to page 20 that the adjusted figures show that this is 79 live births less and five stillbirths less than the total of live and stillbirths received in the returns from the Registrar-General.

NURSING HOMES.

All Nursing Homes in the County have to be registered by the Council. This entails inspection and a detailed report before registration is granted. Once registered all Nursing Homes (which term includes Maternity Homes) are inspected several times annually by the County Nursing Superintendent and, when necessary, by one of the Medical Staff of the Department.

The purpose of registration and inspection is to ensure that the public who enter Nursing Homes for treatment are assured of reasonable standards of comfort and care. The standard of the Nursing Homes in the County is high, and recommendations made during inspections have been implemented at all the Homes.

The position concerning Nursing Homes in the County is given below:—

Return of work done by the Authority under Registration of Nursing Homes (Sections 187 to 194 of the Public Health Act, 1936).

	Number		Number of beds provided for :		Totals.
	of Homes.		Maternity.	Others.	
Homes first registered during year ...	...	—	...	—	...
Homes whose registrations were withdrawn during the year ...	...	—	...	—	...
Homes on the register at end of year ...	5	...	—	...	53

HEALTH VISITING.

At the end of the year twenty Health Visitors were employed on combined Health Visiting and School Nursing duties, in addition, one qualified Health Visitor undertook part-time duty. Two Tuberculosis Visitors are also employed and four Clinic Nurses on sessional duties. The Superintendent Health Visitor is also Domestic Help Organiser and about half her time is given to her Domestic Help duties. The County have designated one Health Visitor as a Senior Health Visitor and she is based at Rhyl and works in close co-operation with the Superintendent Health Visitor who is based at Mold.

Since 1948 the statutory services provided by the County Council as Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Acts have developed and in the majority of these services the Health Visitor takes a leading part. An example being the Home Help Service which started in a small way and is now a major service with 113 Home Helps providing a service for 614 persons during the year. All the home visiting of applicants for Home Helps is done by the Health Visitor in her area and so is subsequent contact and follow-up. With changes in the problems presented, the work of the Health Visitor has also gradually changed—she is now less of a “Health Nurse” and more of a Family Visitor or General Purpose Social Worker.

All the Health Visitors also act as School Nurses and, although this work takes up a considerable amount of their time, their work in schools is valuable. It also means that the Health Visitor is able to follow the young child's progress when he enters school, and this continuity of supervision is important and very worth while.

Every opportunity is taken of giving the Health Visitor assistance with clinic duties and clerical work. The Authority employs five part-time clinic nurses who assist Health Visitors at Child Welfare Clinics, School Clinics, School Medical Inspections and in other ways. In this way the Health Visitor is given more time to devote to the work for which she is specially qualified.

Health Visitors are taking a greater interest in Health Education both by formal talks and by discussion groups with mothers. Health Visitors are sent on refresher courses organised by various bodies and in particular to courses dealing with new methods of educating the public on the prevention of illness and the maintenance of health.

It should be stressed again that the needs of the public have changed and the duties of the Health Visitor have also changed to meet these new demands. The present-day Health Visitor cannot function effectively on her own and has to work closely with the General Practitioner and other Social Workers. She has an important part to play in preventing the breakdown of families, in the prevention and early detection of mental illness,

in helping the aged and handicapped and in health education. This valuable contribution to child health continues and home visiting even though selective still occupies a great deal of her time. As a school nurse a great deal of her previous routine work has been abolished, and now much more is done in advising teachers and parents on health matters affecting pupils, in detection of illness and after care of illness.

Much has been achieved in the field of co-operation with General Practitioners, hospital staff and other social workers, but much remains to be done in this respect. It is in this sphere of work with other members of the health service team that the Health Visitor can contribute most to the welfare of the family—working as a partner in a team.

The total number of visits paid in 1959 by Health Visitors to expectant mothers was 1,133, to children under one year of age 16,901, to children aged one and under two years 11,033, to children aged two and under five years 13,678. Other visits 9,796. To these figures has to be added 57,767 children seen at school and 1,854 home visits in connection with the school health service.

SUPERINTENDENT HEALTH VISITOR'S REPORT FOR 1959.

Number of visits to Infant Welfare Centres	...	...	...	69
Number of visits to School Clinics	...	...	...	12
Number of visits to Health Visitors to see their records and discuss work generally	...	...	...	120
Number of interviews with Health Visitors and Clinic Nurses at the Office	...	...	...	102
Number of film talks to groups of mothers	...	...	...	4

The Tuberculosis Visitors employed by the Authority attend the Chest Clinics, visit all cases of tuberculosis as soon as notified, and report on home conditions. The Chest Physicians and their Assistants have greatly appreciated the assistance and the valuable information given to them by these Tuberculosis Visitors, and their reports to the Health Department on housing conditions have been transmitted to the County District Councils. It is a great pleasure to report that as a result many tuberculous families have been re-housed and overcrowding, insanitary conditions, etc., have been ameliorated. What is of even greater importance is that their visits are fully appreciated by the patients themselves, as it is to these Tuberculosis Visitors that they turn for advice upon their many problems. During the year, in addition to attendance at the Chest Clinics, they paid 2,601 visits to patients in their homes, and of these 144 were first visits to newly notified cases,

Table 15.

HEALTH VISITING AND TUBERCULOSIS VISITING.

A. Visiting :

59

HEALTH VISITORS												TUBERCULOSIS VISITORS
(1)	Number of Children under 5 years of age visited during year (2)	Expectant Mothers		Children under 1 year of age		Children age 1 and under 2 years	Children age 2 but under 5 years	Tuber- culous house- holds	Other cases	Total No. of families of households visited by Health Visitors	Total visits paid to tuberculous households	
		First visits (3)	Total visits (4)	First visits (5)	Total visits (6)	Total visits (7)	Total visits (8)	Total visits (9)	Total visits (10)	(11)	(12)	
(a) I. H. A.	4997	495	1133	2541	16901	11033	13678	123	9673	7945	2601	
			65*		974*	636*	788*	7*	557*		445*	
(b) Vol Org.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

B. Clinics :

- (a) Total number of attendances made by health visitors at local health authority clinic sessions during the year ... 1459
- (b) Total number of attendances by whole-time tuberculosis visitors at chest clinic sessions during the year ... 308
- (N.B.—In addition, the Health Visitors and Tuberculosis Visitors paid 3,471 "No access" visits as shown by * above).

HOME NURSING.

As already mentioned the policy of the Authority now is to employ District Nurse/Midwives and not separate Midwives and District Nurses. The number of whole-time District Nurses was reduced during the year from nine to six. At the same time the number of District Nurse/Midwives increased from 32 to 34, and in addition some of the full-time Midwives carried out certain general nursing duties in their area.

Certain matters relating to staff meetings, equipment, refresher courses and policy matters have already been dealt with under Domiciliary Midwifery and apply equally to Home Nursing.

A report on the Home Nursing Service by the County Nursing Officer is given below :—

REPORT ON WORK OF COUNTY NURSING OFFICER.
DISTRICT NURSING SERVICE.

During 1959 forty-four district nurses employed by the County Council have carried out general nursing duties, in addition, thirty-eight of these have carried out midwifery nursing. In the first part of the year it was necessary to employ ten part-time relief nurses for short periods. Only one has been employed since August. Changes in staff have been carried out during the year, vacancies have been filled in St. Asaph, Llanasa, Hanmer, Prestatyn and Flint. Three nurses have retired in addition to those mentioned in the report of the Midwifery Nursing Service.

In Saltney and Flint the work has been re-arranged. Two of the vacancies for general nurses only have not been filled. The third has been replaced by a district nurse/midwife. An extra full-time relief district nurse/midwife has been employed as these arrangements will ensure that each district is adequately covered.

Satisfactory arrangements for off duty have been introduced during the year and are explained in the report of the Midwifery Nursing Service.

During the year two nurses have completed the Queen's District Nursing training and four are at present in training, four have attended a post graduate course in District Nursing. These have proved interesting as well as being a means of obtaining instruction in modern treatments and procedures.

One hundred and twenty visits have been made to the district nurses for the purpose of examining their records and observing practical work in the patients' own homes.

Eighteen visits have been made to nurses when on sick leave. The running of the service also entails visits from and to the nurses regarding their work, supply of equipment, etc., and they have entailed five hundred and seventy-six visits. Seventy-four interviews with nursing staff and others have been carried out.

In addition to the three monthly meetings of all staff, eighteen groups of nurses have been arranged to discuss nursing matters.

Plans are being made for all the staff to visit a Geriatric Hospital in the new year.

Nursing bags are gradually being brought up to modern standards by replacing the older type when necessary with small aluminium cases. The contents are a good standard of equipment.

Ten visits have been made to five Nursing Homes.

The co-operation of the district nursing staff during the year has been very much appreciated.

Table 16.

HOME NURSING.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
No. of cases attended by Home Nurses during the year :— (a) L.H.A.	Medical	Surgical	Infectious Diseases	Tuber- culosis	Maternal Compli- cations	Others	Totals	Patients included in (2)-(7) who were 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year	Children included in (2)-(7) who were under 5 at the time of the first visit during the year	Patients included in (2)-(7) who have had more than 24 visits during the year
No. of cases attended by Home Nurses during the year :— (a) L.H.A.	4226	1162	..	57	26	..	5471	2306	259	982
(b) Vol. Org. under arrangements with the Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
No. of visits paid by Home Nurses during the year :— (c) L.H.A.	87385	20271	..	1822	122	..	109600	49947	2155	58214
(d) Vol. Org. under arrangements with the Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

Vaccination—During recent years every opportunity has been taken to impress on mothers the importance of vaccination against smallpox, and particularly the advantages of doing this during infancy, preferably before the first birthday.

When vaccination ceased to be compulsory in 1948 the number of children under one year receiving primary vaccinations fell and in 1952 this number had dropped to 350. (In 1947 the number was 841). Partly due to increased propaganda on the importance of primary vaccination and partly due to the provision of extra facilities for vaccination, the number of infants vaccinated increased in 1957 to 824, in 1958 to 1068, but in 1959 the figure was 1039.

The following table shows the number of vaccinations and re-vaccinations carried out during the year 1959.

Table 17 (a).

VACCINATION.

NUMBER OF PERSONS VACCINATED (OR RE-VACCINATED)
DURING THE YEAR 1959.

		Age at date of Vaccination.							
		Under 1.	1.	2 to 4.	5 to 14.	15 or over.	Total.		
Number Vaccinated	... 1039 ...	60	...	60	...	55	...	91	... 1305
Number Re-vaccinated	... — ...	—	...	12	...	31	...	189	... 232

More use has been made of the facilities available for vaccination at County clinics, and in 1959 520 children were vaccinated in our own clinics, which is considerably higher than the number in 1958 (446).

These figures are shown in the following table.

Table 17 (b).

NUMBER OF CHILDREN VACCINATED BY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
STAFF DURING THE YEAR 1959.

Age at date of Vaccination.										
Under 1.		1.	2 to 4.		5 to 14.		15 or over.		Total.	
443	...	46	...	22	...	4	...	5	...	520

(Above figures are included in Table 17 (a)).

Immunisation against Diphtheria—Monthly immunisation sessions are held at all the Authority's Clinics and Centres, and immunisation is also performed by general practitioners in their own surgeries.

Of the value of immunisation against diphtheria there can be not the slightest doubt. In the first ten years of this century the number of cases notified and the death rate were high. In 1911, there were 282 cases with 17 deaths. During the first World War the number of cases and deaths rose alarmingly, but later declined, and in the interval between the first and second World Wars the number of cases fluctuated between approximately 200 to 250. In 1941, however, there was a further sharp rise in the

number of cases, and it was about this time that the campaign for immunisation gained impetus. A glance at Table 21 indicates the success of that campaign, and the extent to which children have been protected against this dread disease.

Table 18 (a).

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1959.

	AGE			
	at date of final injection (as regards A), or of reinforcing injection (as regards B).			
	Under 1.	1 ot 4.	5 to 14.	Total.
A. Number of children who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation in the Authority's Area (including temporary residents) during 1959	... 1297	... 484	... 164	... 1945
B. Number of children who received a Secondary (Reinforcing) Injection (i.e., subsequently to primary immunisation at an earlier age) during 1959	... —	... 187	... 871	... 1058

"Boosting" injections are given in Clinics and also in schools.

Table 18 (b).

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of children at 31st December, 1959, who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1945).

Age at 31/12/59 i.e., Born in Year	Under 1 1959	1-4 1955-1958	5-9 1950-1954	10-14 1945-1949	Under 1 Total
A. Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1955-1959	... 333	... 4929	... 5234	... 1533	... 12029
B. Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1954 or earlier	... —	... —	... 3512	... 10512	... 14024
C. Estimated mid-year child population	... 2360	... 8740	... 23000	...	... 34100
Immunity Index 100 A/C	... 14.11 %	... 56.35 %	... 29.42 %	... 35.27 %	...

Year.	Diphtheria Notification.		Deaths.
1936	...	208	11
1937	...	221	13
1938	...	268	16
1939	...	200	12
1940	...	202	6
1941	...	342	15
1942	...	255	5
1943	...	208	8
1944	...	316	10
1945	...	108	5
1946	...	33	1
1947	...	15	1
1948	...	5	—
1949	...	8	1
1950	...	3	—
1951	...	1	—
1952	...	2	—
1953	...	3	—
1954	...	3	—
1955	...	—	—
1956	...	—	—
1957	...	—	—
1958	...	—	—
1959	...	—	—

Immunisation against Whooping Cough—Combined Diphtheria/Whooping Cough Immunisation has been introduced into all the Council Clinics.

The response of parents has been very satisfactory and it is hoped in this way to improve the Immunity Index against Diphtheria and at the same time offer protection against Whooping Cough which is a distressing and at times fatal condition of young children. The combined Diphtheria/Whooping Cough vaccine is given as a course of three injections at monthly intervals commencing preferably at the age of five months.

Table 19.

CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED COMBINED DIPHThERIA /WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION, 1959.

DISTRICT.	PRIMARY IMMUNISATIONS.				RE-INFORCING INJECTIONS.			
	Under 1.	1-4.	5-14.	Total.	Under 1.	1-4.	5-14.	Total.
Urban :								
Buckley	80	31	...	112	—	—	1	1
Connah's Quay	90	35	...	137	—	3	5	8
Flint (Mun. Boro)	115	56	...	175	—	2	1	3
Holywell	79	14	...	93	—	—	1	1
Mold	83	30	...	117	—	3	12	15
Prestatyn	99	22	...	124	—	5	18	23
Rhyl	138	56	...	217	—	10	64	74
Rural :								
Hawarden	314	124	...	453	—	7	8	15
Holywell	177	53	...	237	—	8	22	30
Maelor	33	20	...	54	—	—	3	3
St. Asaph	74	13	...	95	—	—	—	—
TOTAL URBAN	684	244	47	975	—	23	102	125
TOTAL RURAL	598	210	31	839	—	15	33	48
WHOLE COUNTY	1282	454	78	1814	—	38	135	173

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis—During the year the arrangements for giving B.C.G. Vaccination to “contacts” of known cases of tuberculosis and other selected groups such as students, nurses in Sanatoria, etc., continued. New-born babies of tuberculous parents are also vaccinated with B.C.G. if the parents consent. This work is carried out by the Chest Physicians who obtain the help of the Tuberculosis Visitors in arranging the attendance and follow-up of contacts.

In previous years, B.C.G. Vaccination has been offered to school children between 13 and 14 years of age. In 1959, Circular 7/59 (Wales) was received extending the age over 14 years and to include students attending Technical Colleges and other establishments. It will be noted from the following table that 233 children over the age of 14 years were vaccinated during the year in addition to 856 between 13 and 14 years of age.

B.C.G. Vaccination is a very valuable weapon in the fight against tuberculosis, particularly as the majority of new cases occur in adolescents. The vaccination scheme entails a great deal of detailed administration which has been again carried out very methodically by Dr. E. Pearse, the Senior Medical Officer.

Table 20.

B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1959.

PERIOD FROM 1st JANUARY to 31st DECEMBER, 1959.

Number of persons vaccinated through the Authority's approved arrangements under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act.

A. Contact Scheme.

(Circular 72/49 (Wales)).

(i) Number skin tested	...	...	...	840
(ii) Number found positive	...	...	...	734
(iii) Number found negative	...	...	...	146
(iv) Number vaccinated	...	...	...	193

B. School Children Scheme.

(Circulars 22/53 (Wales) and 7/59 (Wales)).

(School Children under fourteen years of age).

(i) Number skin tested	...	...	...	1372
(ii) Number found positive	...	...	...	348
(iii) Number found negative	...	...	...	976
(iv) Number vaccinated	...	...	...	856

PERIOD FROM 1st MAY to 31st DECEMBER, 1959.

C. Older School Children Scheme.

(Circular 7/59 (Wales)).

(School Children of fourteen years and upwards).

(i) Number skin tested	...	...	...	424
(ii) Number found positive	...	...	...	130
(iii) Number found negative	...	...	...	270
(iv) Number vaccinated	...	...	...	233

D. Students attending Further Education Establishments.

(Circular 7/59 (Wales)).

(i) Number skin tested	...	...	...	NIL
(ii) Number found positive	...	...	...	„
(iii) Number found negative	...	...	...	„
(iv) Number vaccinated	...	...	...	„

Poliomyelitis Vaccination—Poliomyelitis vaccination continued during 1959 and as vaccine was plentiful and no cases of Poliomyelitis occurred, vaccination sessions were held throughout the year. A considerable number of extra sessions were held during the year and from February on fixed open sessions were introduced at six of our main clinics. This meant that parents or persons eligible for vaccination could attend for vaccination without prior appointment.

Our waiting list at the end of 1958 was quickly reduced in the early months of 1959 and during the year 21,021 persons had two injections of Poliomyelitis vaccine. At the end of 1959 only 123 persons were on the waiting list for vaccination.

By the end of 1959, 37,255 persons had been protected against Poliomyelitis since the scheme started in 1956. In May, 1959, an intensive Poliomyelitis Vaccination Campaign was held, preceded by a great deal of local publicity, and during the month 3,079 persons were given their first injection of Poliomyelitis vaccine.

In July, 1958, a start was made to give third injections to persons who had received their second injection at least seven months previously. This work continued throughout 1959 and at the end of the year 20,292 persons had received their third injection.

General Practitioners continued to play an important part in the Poliomyelitis vaccination campaign during the year. Depots of vaccine were maintained for their convenience at Rhyl, Holywell, Flint, Mancot and Mold. Completed vaccination cards are returned after vaccination by General Practitioners to the Health Department for filing and future record.

It is pleasant to record that no cases of paralytic poliomyelitis were notified in the County during 1959, and I feel confident that this disease will die out if we can persuade parents and young persons to avail themselves of the protection now available.

Table 21.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION, 1959.

(A)—PERSONS WHO RECEIVED TWO INJECTIONS.

Year of Injection	YEAR OF BIRTH																											PRIORITY GROUP				
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	Expectant Mothers	G.P.	Ambulance Staff	Hospital Staff	Total
1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66	49	23	46	45	33	34	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	306
1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	717	720	587	530	343	234	198	125	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	3461	
1958	16	9	6	6	40	46	4	13	27	78	346	559	601	846	610	579	699	788	888	954	913	1027	982	1090	922	94	..	255	29	3	37	12467
1959	609	598	694	643	666	647	723	898	938	1054	986	1034	1017	1084	836	675	657	590	594	571	600	531	572	624	753	1213	131	692	43	9	299	21021
Total	625	607	700	649	706	693	727	911	965	1132	1332	1593	1618	1930	2218	2023	1966	1954	1870	1792	1745	1704	1557	1718	1675	1347	131	947	72	12	336	37255

(B)—PERSONS WHO RECEIVED THREE INJECTIONS.

1959	66	56	53	50	51	51	74	101	153	253	564	908	895	1187	1575	1544	1478	1539	1441	1392	1304	1184	1139	1223	1118	362	1	364	37	4	125	20292
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(C)—PERSONS WHO RECEIVED THREE INJECTIONS ... 348.

N.B.—These are included in the total of 37,255 in Section (A) above.



AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Ambulances.

The following table shows the number of patients conveyed by the County Council Ambulances during the year 1959. For the purpose of comparison, the figures for the year 1955 are also shown, this being the year when the re-organised service was first operated.

Ambulances.

Month.	1959				1955			
	Stretcher Cases	Sitting Cases	Journeys	Mileage	Stretcher Cases	Sitting Cases	Journeys	Mileage
January	621	2,339	772	29,746	455	708	526	12,719
February	572	2,335	666	28,659	360	564	404	11,027
March	588	2,369	689	28,672	437	857	553	14,367
April	537	2,437	699	28,570	456	1,382	766	18,350
May	574	2,360	737	30,950	427	1,808	555	22,600
June	576	2,598	762	29,851	517	2,017	909	27,342
July	598	2,603	813	31,895	578	1,900	911	26,388
August	561	2,468	815	30,236	565	1,888	862	28,175
September	508	2,699	774	30,824	434	2,166	727	26,226
October	408	2,791	718	31,184	441	2,142	686	27,000
November	442	2,664	704	27,483	465	2,322	611	28,981
December	544	2,633	728	29,560	409	1,991	691	26,178
TOTAL	6,529	30,296	8,877	357,630	5,544	19,745	8,201	269,353

The above figures show that 11,536 more patients were dealt with by the ambulances in 1959 compared with 1955. The number of journeys have, however, only increased by 676, and the mileage by 88,277.

Hired Sitting Case Cars.

The following table shows the number of patients conveyed by hired sitting case cars during the year, with comparative figures for 1955:—

1959				1955			
Patients	Journey	Mileage	Cost	Patients	Journeys	Mileage	Cost
4,450	1,707	29,526	£ s. d. 1,460 10 11	14,507	6,130	157,642	£ s. d. 8,137 19 1

The figures show that the number of patients carried by hired sitting case cars in 1959 are 10,057 less than in 1955. The journeys have been reduced by 4,423, the mileage by 128,116, and the cost reduced by £6,677/8/2.

Patients carried by rail—The number of patients conveyed by rail during 1959 was 39, the majority of whom were to the London area. In 1955, only 19 patients were conveyed by rail.

Analysis—The following is an analysis of the patients dealt with during 1959 by the County Council ambulances, and hired sitting case cars, and of the patients carried by rail, with comparative figures for 1955:—

	1959	1955
Road accidents	541	223
Miscellaneous accidents	246	111
Maternity cases	819	246
Emergency calls	2005	1279
Infectious cases	113	79
General removals and clinic cases ...	37551	37839
Patients by rail	39	19
Totals ...	41,314	39,796

All Methods of Conveyance :

	1959	1955
Total patients	41,314	39,796
Total number of journeys	10,584	14,331
Total number of miles involved ...	387,156	426,995

The figures show that 1,518 more patients were conveyed in 1959 than in 1955, but the number of journeys was reduced by 3,747 and the mileage was reduced by 39,839. Average miles per patient in 1959—9.05; in 1955—10.75. Average patients per journey in 1959—3.69; in 1955—2.31. This saving in journeys and mileage is the result of the introduction of radio control which has been in operation since April, 1957. It will be seen from these figures that, had radio control not been introduced, two additional ambulances would have been required to cope with the increased demand. If hired sitting case cars had been used, the minimum cost for mileage alone would have been £1,868. Waiting time and additional cost for night mileage would have cost another £500, with far less efficiency.

Average number of patients dealt with, every day, for the year was 113. Average miles per day for the year, 1,061. Average journeys per day for the year, 30.

Mobile Clinic—The Mobile Clinic attended 205 clinical sessions during the year covered by this report, involving 6,041 miles. Areas visited by the Clinic are—St. Asaph, Rhuddlan, Dyserth, Halkyn, Garden City, Ewloe, Penyffordd and Leeswood. The ambulance RDM 454 used for towing the Mobile Clinic was also used at Halkyn and Leeswood to transport mothers and babies from surrounding areas to the Mobile Clinic, and during the year carried 740 mothers and over 1,000 children.

The ambulance is also used to convey Welfare Foods from the main Depots at Mold and Rhyl to various distribution centres in the County, and during the year it made 81 journeys, involving 3,950 miles. This mileage, together with the mileage shown for towing the Mobile Clinic which adds to 9,991, is in addition to the 357,630 miles shown for the ambulances, thus making a grand total for the County Council ambulances of 367,621 miles.

Fuel—12,745 gallons of petrol were consumed during the year by the petrol-driven ambulances to cover 229,994 miles—average miles per gallon was 18.06.

4,859 gallons of Derv were consumed by the five diesel ambulances to cover 137,637 miles. Average miles per gallon was 28.31. Figures show that consumption of petrol was 10 m.p.g. higher than in diesel.

Vehicles—Total vehicles in service at 31st December, 1959 :—

Type.	Make.	Year	Con- dition	Reg. No.
Standard (2 stretchers)	Austin (Sheerline)	1951	Fair	HDM 229
Standard (2 stretchers)	Bedford 25 cwt.	1955	Good	LDM 781
Standard (Dual Purpose)	Bedford 25 cwt.	1958	Good	RDM 454
Standard (2 stretchers)	Morris (Diesel)	1956	Good	NDM 694
Standard (2 stretchers)	Morris (Diesel)	1957	Good	PDM 138
Standard (2 stretchers)	Morris (Diesel)	1958	Good	RDM 563
Standard (2 stretchers)	Morris (Diesel)	1958	Good	RDM 571
Standard (2 stretchers)	Morris (Diesel)	1959	Good	SDM 953
Standard (2 stretchers)	Morris (Petrol)	1959	Good	SDM 982
Light (2 stretchers)	Bedford	1955	Fair	MDM 450
Light (Dual Purpose)	Bedford	1955	Poor	LDM 662
Light (Dual Purpose)	Bedford	1955	Fair	LDM 718
Light (Dual Purpose)	Bedford	1955	Fair	LDM 719
Light (Dual Purpose)	Bedford	1955	Fair	LDM 720
Light (Dual Purpose)	Bedford	1955	Fair	LDM 721

New vehicles purchased in 1959.

Type.	Make.	Reg. No.
Standard (2 stretchers)	Morris (Diesel)	SDM 953
Standard (2 stretchers)	Morris (Petrol)	SDM 982

Vehicles disposed of during 1959.

Type.	Make.	Reg. No.	Year.
Convertible Dual Purpose	Morris	NDM 837	1956

Vehicles withdrawn from service for major repairs during 1959.

Make.	Reg. No.	Type of Repairs.
Light Bedford	MDM 450	New front suspension complete with shock absorbers. Reline brakes.
Light Bedford	LDM 718	Replacement engine, complete overhaul. Body repairs and respray.
Bedford	LDM 781	Fit new rear springs.
Light Bedford	LDM 721	Back axle, new crown wheel and pinion.
Austin Sheerline	HDM 229	New steering column and steering box.
Light Bedford	MDM 450	New front beam. Replacement engine.
Light Bedford	LDM 718	Gear box overhauled, new parts fitted.
Morris	RDM 563	Brakes relined.
Morris	RDM 571	New rear springs.
Light Bedford	LDM 720	Replacement engine and overhaul. Body repair and respray. Service gear box.
Morris	NDM 694	New hub bearings and brakes relined. Service radiator.
Light Bedford	LDM 719	Replacement engine, overhaul. Body repair and respray.
Morris	PDM 138	Brakes relined. Replacement clutch assembly. Dismantle engine due to broken piston ring. Fit new pistons and replace all bearings.
Light Bedford	LDM 662	Dismantle gear box and fit new parts. Replace radiator.
Bedford	RDM 454	Engine overhaul. New pistons fitted F.O.C. under guarantee.

All vehicles are serviced every 2,000 miles, minor repairs are carried out as necessary, without taking the vehicle out of service for more than two or three hours.

Tyres—39 new tyres and 12 works remould tyres were purchased during 1959. Average miles per tyre approximately 28,000.

Establishment of the Ambulance Service Staff at 31/12/59.

Head of Service—County Medical Officer of Health.

Officer in Charge—County Ambulance Officer.

Control Staff, Holywell—2 Females and 2 Male Clerks.

Control Staff at Rhyl Fire Service Headquarters—1½ Control Operators.

Administrative—1 Part-time Clerk.

Operational—15 Drivers (full-time), 1 Relief Driver, 6 Attendants
and 1 Part-time Driver.

The following shows where the personnel and vehicles are stationed :—

Designation.	Stationed at.	No. of Vehicles.
County Medical Officer	County Health Offices, Mold	—
County Ambulance Officer	Ambulance Headquarters, 40, High Street, Mold	—
1 Part-time Clerk	ditto	—
4 Control Clerks	County Ambulance Control, Holywell	—
1½ Control Operators	Fire Service H.Q., Rhyl	—
5 Ambulance Drivers	Mold Ambulance Station	4 and Clinic Unit
4 Ambulance Drivers	Rhyl Ambulance Station	3 and 1 Relief
2 Ambulance Drivers	Queensferry Ambulance Station	2
3 Ambulance Drivers	Holywell Ambulance Station	3
1 Relief Ambulance Driver	Holywell Ambulance Station	
1 Ambulance Driver	Flint Ambulance Station	1
1 Part-time Ambulance Driver	Hanmer Ambulance (Maelor)	1
1 Ambulance Attendant	Mold Ambulance Station	
2 Ambulance Attendants	Rhyl Ambulance Station	
1 Ambulance Attendant	Queensferry Ambulance Station	
1 Ambulance Attendant	Holywell Ambulance Station	
1 Ambulance Attendant	Flint Ambulance Station	
Total ... 29½		Total ... 15 and Clinic Unit

Resignations—Two Control Clerks from the Holywell Ambulance Control resigned from the service during the year to take up other employment.

One Ambulance Driver, who was driving the Mobile Clinic, resigned in September to take up other employment.

Appointments—Two female clerks for the Holywell Ambulance Control were appointed in October to replace two who had resigned. One Ambulance Driver was appointed in October to replace the driver who resigned in September.

Sickness—Ambulance Control Staff—42 working days were lost due to sickness during the year. 40 of these, however, were in respect of one female clerk.

Operational staff—65 days, involving 495 man working hours were lost during the year to sickness of drivers and attendants.

Training—Ten ambulance drivers and attendants were examined in First Aid to the injured by St. John Ambulance Brigade and qualified for awards.

Mr. K. Bruce, Control Clerk at Holywell, attended a course of instruction in Civil Defence, Ambulance and Casualty Collecting Section at the Civil Defence School, Falfield, from 9th to 21st February, 1959, and qualified for a full certificate.

Safe Driving Awards for 1959—The following drivers qualified for an award in the National Safe Driving Competition for 1959 :—

Senior Driver T. E. Bellis, Mold—4th Diploma.
 Ambulance Driver A. T. Goodwin, Mold—1st Diploma.
 Ambulance Driver T. Thomas, Mold—1st Diploma.
 Ambulance Driver D. G. Griffiths, Mold—2nd Diploma.
 Senior Driver C. Grace, Rhyl—1st Diploma.
 Ambulance Driver W. A. Reynolds, Rhyl—4th Diploma.
 Ambulance Driver J. Wardman, Rhyl—3rd Silver Bar.
 Ambulance Driver P. Hallows, Queensferry—1st Diploma.
 Ambulance Driver A. Earnshaw, Queensferry—1st Diploma.
 Ambulance Driver E. G. Roberts, Holywell—3rd Diploma.
 Ambulance Driver I. McKay, Holywell—3rd Diploma.
 Ambulance Driver E. Wilson, Flint—4th Diploma.

Four other drivers failed to qualify.

Civil Defence Ambulance and Casualty Collecting Section—The number of persons enrolled in the Ambulance Section of the Civil Defence is well below the peace time figure required by the Ministry in this County.

Every effort has been made to enrol volunteers with little result. Rhyl is the only place where sufficient volunteers are available to form a Section of 28 persons.

This section has been trained by the County Ambulance Officer and Senior Driver C. Grace on Nuclear explosion, Chemical and Biological Warfare, including the duties of war-time Civil Defence Ambulance Service.

Efforts were made during 1959 to form a class in Holywell, but poor attendance resulted in the class being discontinued before completion of the training. About 40% of our full-time Ambulance personnel have completed the training during 1959.

Ambulance Competition—The County Ambulance Competition for 1959 was held at Llesty Hospital, Holywell, on the 19th April, 1959. 5 Teams took part—Mold, Rhyl, Holywell, Queensferry and Flint. The County Shield was won by the Rhyl Team with 138 marks, Mold were second with 137 marks, Holywell third with 136½ marks, Queensferry 118 and Flint 106.

The winning team represented the County at the No. 8 Regional (Wales) Competition held at Newtown on the 7th June, 1959.

Other Authorities.

Flintshire patients conveyed by other Authorities.

Authority.	Patients.	Journeys.	Mileage.	Cost.		
				£	s.	d.
Shropshire C.C.	... 37	... 37	... 621	... 73	16	0
Denbighshire C.C.	... 54	... 40	... 484	... 54	15	0
Chester City	... 84	... 86	... 570	... 200	0	0
Merionethshire C.C.	... 2	... 2	... —	... no	charge	
Caernarvonshire C.C.	... 3	... 3	... 100	... 4	5	0
Wolverhampton	... 1	... 1	... 37	... 1	3	1
Glamorganshire C.C.	... 1	... 1	... 9	... 1	2	6
City of Stoke-on-Trent	... 1	... 1	... 7	... 14	0	
London County Council	... 4	... 4	... 111	... 22	14	8
Cardiff City	... 1	... 1	... 29	... 2	3	6
Sheffield	... 1	... 1	... 24	... 3	12	0
Nottingham	... 1	... 1	... 15	... 18	9	
Salford Corporation	... 6	... 6	... 73	... 6	18	4
Total	... 196	... 184	... 2,080	£372	2	10

Work carried out by the Flintshire Ambulance Service on behalf of other Authorities.

Authority.	Patients.	Journeys.	Mileage.	Cost.		
				£	s.	d.
Denbighshire C.C.	... 155	... 150	... 2135	... 257	1	6
Shropshire C.C.	... 2	... 2	... 210	... 15	15	0
Liverpool	... 4	... 3	... 101	... 7	9	6
London County Council	... 1	... 1	... 37	... 4	12	6
Cheshire C.C.	... 4	... 4	... 53	... 3	19	6
Chester City	... 2	... 2	... 12	... 18	0	
Birkenhead	... 1	... 1	... 14	... 1	17	6
Essex C.C.	... 1	... 1	... 24	... 3	0	0
Somerset C.C.	... 1	... 1	... 10	... 15	0	
Manchester	... 2	... 2	... 49	... 4	1	6
Wirral Hundred Motor Club	... —	... 5	... 42	... 16	17	5
Point to Point, Rhuddlan	... —	... 1	... 14	... 3	7	6
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital	... 1	... 1	... 20	... 2	10	0
Total	... 175	... 174	... 2,721	£322	4	11

National Association of Ambulance Officers—The County Ambulance Officer attended three Regional Meetings of the Association at Shrewsbury during the year and also attended, with the Chairman of the Ambulance Sub-Committee, the Annual Conference of the Association held at Southport on the 10th and 11th September, 1959.

The Ambulance Service has had to meet extra demands every year since the County Service was established in 1955. Not only has the number of patients carried increased each year but the standard of efficiency has also improved.

A great deal of the credit for the excellence of the service is due to Mr. D. J. Jones, the County Ambulance Officer. He renders a valuable service to the County by maintaining a first class ambulance service, and this is achieved by his close contact with all members of the staff, hospitals, general practitioners and other bodies.

A sincere tribute should also be paid to all members of the ambulance service for their excellent service during 1959.

My sincere thanks also go to the Chief Fire Officer and his staff for their help with the emergency call-out arrangements and their help with all matters that arise affecting ambulance duties.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chief Constable and members of the Police Force for their valuable help at all times and in particular for the help we receive in connection with the radio telephone equipment on ambulances which forms part of the Police radio network.

PREVENTION, CARE AND AFTER-CARE.

(a) **Tuberculosis**—The full scope of the services for the tubercular were described in detail in the 1957 Report. These services were continued during 1959.

All Tuberculosis cases on the register were visited regularly by the Tuberculosis Visitors, who gave advice and help on all matters affecting the welfare of patients.

Contacts of new cases of tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Visitors and advised to attend the chest clinic for examination and, if under twenty-one years of age, B.C.G. vaccination.

During the year 320 out of 358 known contacts were examined at contact clinics by the Chest Physicians. All contacts were skin tested and, if found suitable, were offered B.C.G. vaccine. In addition to contacts, the Chest Physicians offer B.C.G. to other suitable cases—children, students, nurses, etc. During the year, 840 persons (including contacts) were skin tested and 193 given B.C.G. vaccine.

Grants of milk and other foods were made during the year by the Area Care and Nursing Sub-Committees to 180 cases of tuberculosis at a total cost of £2,640/17/7. These grants of milk and other foods continue to meet a real need, particularly in cases of prolonged illness, and they are in addition to any special grants of the National Assistance Board. Grants are only made by the authority if all contacts have been examined and the patient is accepting the treatment recommended by the Chest Physician.

As a step to prevent Tuberculosis, all staff employed by the Authority have a chest x-ray on engagement, this applies to all grades of staff, and during 1959 a total of 202 newly appointed staff had a chest x-ray.

B.C.G. vaccination of school children continued during the year. In April, Circular 7/59 was received from the Welsh Board of Health extending the age range from thirteen years upwards to all those at school, in technical colleges and establishments of further education. B.C.G. vaccine was offered to all children in this new age range and at the end of the year 1,809 children and young persons had been vaccinated with B.C.G. during the year.

During the year the Semi Static Mass X-Ray Unit visited four centres in the County at intervals of three weeks—Rhyl, Holywell, Shotton and Mold. Good attendances were recorded and General Practitioners made very good use of the Unit by referring cases with chest symptoms.

I would like to record my thanks to the two Tuberculosis Visitors who continued to do excellent work during the year, both in Chest Clinics and on their districts. My sincere thanks are also due to the two Chest Physicians and their staff for their valuable and ever ready help.

(b) **Illness generally**—Grants of milk, etc., similar to those for tuberculosis are also made by the Area Sub-Committees to persons suffering from other forms of illness, and to mental defectives living in their own homes. Sixteen such persons were assisted in 1959. The cost of this was £105.

During the year the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade continued to operate Medical Loan Depots at eighteen centres in the County. All these depots have nursing equipment such as back rests, bed pans, urinals, rubber sheeting, etc., which is available on loan to persons ill at home. Both organisations rendered invaluable service during the year in this field, and new depots recently opened at the request of the Health Committee operated very efficiently.

There is a great need for a co-ordinated service in the County for the handicapped (other than blind and deaf). Many of these handicapped persons, particularly those who cannot be trained for some form of employment, receive no visits from trained social workers and no occupational or diversional therapy. This is a field where voluntary effort could give a great deal of help, but the needs of the handicapped can only be met fully by a service such as that now provided for the blind and deaf and dumb,

The proposals for implementing a scheme for the welfare of the generally handicapped was submitted to the Welsh Board of Health during the year and approved. A start was made to compile a register of generally handicapped persons and this has progressed well. At the end of the year authority had been obtained to advertise for a Home Visitor for the generally handicapped, and it is hoped to engage a teacher early in 1960. Once a home visitor has been engaged considerable progress can be made to implement the Authority's proposals.

Financial responsibility for periods of convalescence in Convalescent Homes has also been accepted by the Authority, the Medical Officer having the power to arrange such convalescence at his discretion. The Authority accepted financial responsibility for seventeen such patients in 1959. Recommendations for convalescence are received from the hospitals, general practitioners and public, and charges are recovered according to the financial circumstances of the patient.

DOMESTIC HELP.

The demands on this very valuable service have increased steadily since 1948, and the number of cases helped in 1959 (614) is the highest recorded.

This service calls for a great deal of detailed administration which has been most efficiently carried out by Miss Gray, the Domestic Help Organiser. Not only is the service providing much needed help at home for medical, surgical, maternity and tuberculous cases, but also help is provided for the elderly who would otherwise require hospital care in many instances.

It will be noted that 68.89 % of all cases helped were chronic aged sick.

By providing a Domestic Help many acute illnesses are nursed at home, and the saving of hospital beds for the more seriously ill thus effected.

One other important contribution of the Service is the keeping together of a family when the mother is ill. By providing a help the children can remain at home, which is greatly to the benefit of the family and to the advantage of the Authority who would otherwise be obliged to admit the children to a home.

The service is greatly appreciated by the public and the standard of the helpers is high. Regular meetings of Domestic Helps are held in various parts of the County when matters concerning their work are discussed and films and other instructional material shown.

Persons receiving the services of a Home Help contribute towards the cost of the service on a scale approved by the County Council. This scale has been simplified in recent years, and brought in line with the scale used by the National Assistance Board. Many of the persons helped are elderly and do not contribute towards the cost of the service as their only income is a pension, sometimes supplemented by National Assistance.

During the year a meeting was held between General Practitioners, the County Welfare Officer and myself to discuss services available to the aged cared for at home. At this meeting the General Practitioners expressed their appreciation of the Home Help Service and asked if more help could be given at week-ends and during the evening from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. This matter was gone into in detail and the Home Help cover available at week-ends and evenings increased. At the end of the year we were able to meet all evening and week-end requests for service and indeed in a few cases night help was also made available mainly in cases of terminal illnesses.

The Home Help Service has become one of the most valuable services we provide, it is a personal service, meeting a real need in the patients' homes, at a critical period. It is also a service that is much appreciated by all concerned, doctors, hospital staff, social workers and most of all by those who are cared for by the Home Helps in their own homes.

Details of cases helped and hours worked are shown in Table 22.

Table 22.

DOMESTIC HELP SCHEME.

1. Number of cases where Domestic Help was provided during the year :—

Maternity (including expectant mothers)	39
Tuberculosis	5
Chronic Sick (including aged and infirm)	423
Medical	118
Surgical	17
Special	12
	<hr/>
	614*
	<hr/>

* Twenty of these received evening help.

Number of first visits to Patients by Organiser	251
Number of re-visits to Patients by Organiser	387
	<hr/>
	638
	<hr/>
Number of prospective helpers interviewed at office ...	17
Number of prospective helpers interviewed at home ...	46

2. Number of Domestic Helps employed at 31st December, 1959 :—

(a) Full-time	2
(b) Part-time	111
	<hr/>
	113
	<hr/>
Number of prospective helpers interviewed	63
Number of Domestic Help Organisers employed	1*
Number of Meetings arranged for Home Helps	9
Number of talks given to Home Helpers	7
Number of first visits to helpers	49
Number of re-visits to helpers	592

* Part-time.

3. Number of hours worked in each area for the year :—

Eastern 31,446. Central 23,848. Western 62,015.

Total 117,309.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

During the year several important developments occurred in the health education work undertaken by the department. These developments were (a) full use was made of the department's sound film projector and strip projectors, (b) the education authority established a visual aids department at the County Library, Hawarden, and the Visual Aids Officer helped this department by obtaining suitable films and strips on health education. (c) In consultation with Mr. W. J. Jenkins, H.M.I. of Schools, and his colleagues, a new syllabus of health education in Secondary Schools was drafted and introduced. (d) More use was made of press publicity in the health education field than in previous years and more selective buying of literature for distribution in clinics. (e) More emphasis on mental health in our health education work, and (f) every effort was made to interest all members of the staff in health education work.

During the year the new experimental syllabus on health education in schools was introduced into selected Secondary Schools in consultation with the headmasters concerned. Much of the health education in Secondary Schools will be taught through the usual school subjects of Biology, Domestic Economy and Science, but certain subjects will be dealt with separately and by members of this department, e.g., health services, welfare services, first aid, etc. A good start was made on this work during the year and the staff in schools were appreciative and co-operative.

Mr. E. Lewis, the County Public Health Inspector, was placed in charge of Visual Aids and did excellent work in getting together all forms of material for use in health education, including the preparation of special posters for campaigns on poliomyelitis vaccination, home accidents, food hygiene, etc. In addition, Mr. Lewis gave health education talks during the year to various organisations.

The following is a list of the main films and film strips shown at schools and clinics during the year. It should be explained that at each showing a talk was given by a medical officer, health visitor or the County Public Health Inspector.

Title of Film.

Dental Health :—

No Toothache for Noddy.
A Tooth in Time.
Thirty-two of Your Own.
Let's Keep our Teeth.

Personal Hygiene :—

The Best of Yourself.
Your Skin.
Unwelcome Guests.

Human Reproduction :—

A Brother for Susan.

Growing Girls.

Preparation for Parenthood.

Menstruation.

Clean Food Handling :—

Food Values.

Another Case of Poisoning.

Clean Food.

Clean Milk.

The films on human reproduction were part of a course arranged at a secondary school. At this school, parents were asked if they agreed to their children receiving instruction in human reproduction and practically all agreed. A series of talks were given and films shown, separate for boys and girls. These sessions were very much appreciated by the parents and by the school staff. It is hoped to repeat this course of instruction in future years and possibly extend it to other schools.

In addition to the films and film strips listed above, others were shown to many outside bodies dealing with various topics such as Health Services, Home Safety, Vaccination, Immunisation, Clean Food, and Environmental Health.

Dr. E. Pearse, Dr. W. Manwell, Miss D. V. Gray, Miss E. Weston and Miss J. S. Rogers did a great deal of health education work during the year in schools, clinics and by talks to various organisations.

It must also be stressed that many other members of the staff, doctors, health visitors and nurses do a good deal of education of the public in health matters by brief talks in clinics and to individual mothers during home visits.

During the year every opportunity for in-service training of staff was accepted and Miss Rogers and Mr. Lewis attended the Summer School of the Central Council for Health Education at Bangor.

MENTAL HEALTH.

In the field of mental health, 1959 was a memorable year as the Mental Health Act, 1959, became law during the year. All previous legislation relating to mental illness and mental deficiency and contained in the Lunacy Act, 1890—Mental Treatment Acts and the Mental Deficiency Acts is repealed in the new Act. The Mental Health Act, 1959, is a full and detailed instrument of legislation and cannot be easily summarised. Some of the main provisions of the new Act are given below.

- (1) All disorders of the mind whether psychosis or mental defect are now called mental disorder. Terms previously in common use such as lunatic, imbecile, idiot and feeble-minded are abolished.
- (2) The emphasis throughout the Act is on treatment and not custody. Every effort will be made to encourage patients to seek treatment informally and without compulsion.

- (3) The magistrate no longer has any part in the compulsory admission of patients to hospital. The future compulsory admission for observation or treatment will be on the recommendation of two doctors. One doctor must have special psychiatric experience, and the other doctor if possible should be the patient's General Practitioner.
- (4) Adequate safeguards against unnecessary detention are provided by the establishment of Mental Health Review Tribunals to be set up in each area, to which a patient or his relative can appeal.
- (5) Great emphasis is laid on the after care of patients who have suffered mental disorder and on the training and welfare of the subnormal.

The Mental Health Act will not come into operation until a date or dates appointed by the Minister. There is every indication that the whole Act will come into operation during 1960 and at the end of 1959 more and more patients with mental illness were seeking informal admission.

During the latter part of 1959 a great deal of preliminary work was done in the department, preparing schemes for implementing parts of the Act which directly concern the County Council. Under the new Act a great deal of extra work will fall on the Health Department as regards prevention, training and after-care of the mentally disordered. In future, the welfare of the mentally disordered will be the joint responsibility of the family doctor, hospital, local health authority, statutory bodies and the public.

The County Council, in meeting the new demands of the Mental Health Act, will be faced with problems of recruiting and training staff and providing additional accommodation in the form of hostels and training centres. Preliminary steps to meet these demands have been taken and approved by the Health Committee.

During the year the work of Duly Authorised Officers and Health Visitors for the mentally ill and mental defectives continued as in previous years.

Cases dealt with by the Duly Authorised Officers during the year are given below :—

Number of certified patients	...	...	8
Number of temporary patients	...	...	142
Number of voluntary patients	...	...	41
			<hr/>
			191
			<hr/>

Many mentally ill patients are admitted to hospital direct without the aid of the Duly Authorised Officers and the figures of Flintshire cases admitted to and discharged from the North Wales Hospital for Nervous and Mental Disorders, Denbigh, is given below :—

ADMISSIONS—Male 134, Female 211, Total 345.

DISCHARGES—Male 139, Female 199, Total 338.

DEATHS—Male 20, Female 21, Total 41.

The statistics relating to mental deficiency are shown in tabular form in Table 23.

During the year the Occupation Centre at Rhyl continued to do excellent work. Once more a great deal of work was done by Dr. E. H. Annels and Miss D. E. Powell, the Centre Supervisor, in selecting cases and in planning the work of the centre.

At the end of the year 35 persons were in attendance daily from the Western half of the County. (Five of these were Denbighshire residents).

Miss Powell is assisted by three assistant supervisors, one of whom has successfully completed the course of training for assistant supervisors organised by the National Association for Mental Health. In addition there is a dinner help and resident caretaker at Fronfraith who help the training staff.

Connected with the centre there is an active branch of the Association of Parents of the Mentally Handicapped.

Children from the Eastern half of the County continued to attend the Chester City Occupation Centre during the year, and at the end of the year 25 were attending daily.

Table 23.

A.—LUNACY AND MENTAL TREATMENT ACTS.

Cases dealt with by Duly Authorised Officers.

Certified Patients	...	...	...	...	8
Temporary Patients	...	...	...	...	142
Voluntary Patients	...	...	...	...	51

B.—MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1938.

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES.

		Under age 16. M. F.		Aged 16 and over. M. F.	
Particulars of cases reported during 1959 :					
a) Cases ascertained to be defectives " subject to be dealt with " :—					
Number in which action taken on reports by :—					
(1) Local Education Authorities on children :					
(i) While at school or liable to attend school	...	7	1	...	—
(ii) On leaving special schools	...	—	—	...	1
(iii) On leaving ordinary schools	...	2	—	...	—
(2) Police or by Courts	...	—	—	...	1
(3) Other sources	...	—	—	...	2
TOTAL of 1 (a)		9	1	4	1

Table 23—continued.

						Under age 16. M. F.		Aged 16 and over M. F.	
(b) Cases reported who were found to be defectives but were not regarded as "subject to be dealt with" on any ground						—	1	2	—
(c) Cases reported who were not regarded as defectives and are thus excluded from (a) or (b)						—	—	—	—
(d) Cases reported in which action was incomplete at 31st December, 1959, and are thus excluded from (a) or (b)						—	—	—	—
Total of 1 (a)-(d) inc.						9	2	6	—
2. Disposal of cases reported during 1959 :									
(The total of 2 (a), (b) and (c) must agree with that of 1 (a) and (b) above).									
(a) Of the cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" (i.e., at 1 (a)), number :									
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision						8	1	3	—
(ii) Placed under Guardianship						—	—	—	—
(iii) Taken to "Places of Safety"						—	—	—	—
(iv) Admitted to Hospitals						1	—	1	—
TOTAL of 2 (a)						9	1	4	—
(b) Of the cases not ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" (i.e., at 1 (b)), number :									
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision						—	1	2	—
(ii) Action unnecessary						—	—	—	—
TOTAL of 2 (b)						—	1	2	—
(c) Cases reported at 1 (a) or (b) above who removed from the area or died before disposal was arranged						—	—	—	—
TOTAL of 2 (a)-(c) inc.						9	2	6	—
3. Number of mental defectives for whom care was arranged by the local health authority under Circular 5/52 during 1959 and admitted to									
(a) National Health Service hospitals						6	1	4	—
(b) Elsewhere						—	1	—	—
TOTAL						6	2	4	—

Table 23—continued.

	Under age 16. M. F.		Aged 16 and over. M. F.	
Total cases on Authority's Registers at 31/12/59 :				
(i) Under Statutory Supervision	27	18	46	45
(ii) Under Guardianship (including patients on licence) — — ...	—	—	2	—
(iii) In "Places of Safety"	—	—	—	—
(iv) In Hospitals (including patients on licence) ...	11	5	54	65
TOTAL of 4 (i)-(iv) inc. ...	38	23	102	110
(v) Under Voluntary Supervision	1	1	29	29
TOTAL of 4 (i)-(v) inc. ...	39	24	131	139
Number of defectives under Guardianship on 31st December, 1959, who were dealt with under the provisions of Section 8 or 9, Mental Deficiency Act, 1913 (Included in 4 (ii)) ...				
	—	—	—	—
Classification of defectives in the Community on 31/12/59 (according to need at that date) :				
(a) Cases included in 4 (i)-(iii) in need of hospital care • and reported accordingly to the hospital authority :—				
(1) In urgent need of hospital care :—				
(i) "cot and chair" cases	—	3	—	—
(ii) ambulant low grade cases	—	4	—	1
(iii) medium grade cases	—	—	2	1
(iv) high grade cases	—	—	1	—
TOTAL urgent cases ...	—	7	3	2
(2) Not in urgent need of hospital care :—				
(i) "cot and chair" cases	—	—	—	—
(ii) ambulant low grade cases	—	—	2	—
(iii) medium grade cases	—	—	—	—
(iv) high grade cases	—	—	—	—
TOTAL non-urgent cases ...	—	—	2	—
TOTAL OF URGENT AND NON-URGENT CASES ...	—	7	5	2

Table 23—continued.

						Under age 16.		Aged 16 and over	
						M.	F.	M.	F.
(b) Of the cases included in items 4 (i), (ii) and (v), number considered suitable for :—									
(i) occupation centre	...	...	...	...	...	20	13	...	23
(ii) industrial centre	...	...	...	...	...	11	1	...	18
(iii) home training	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	...	3
TOTAL of 6 (b)						32	14	44	43
(c) Of the cases included in 6 (b), number receiving training on 31/12/59 :—									
(i) In occupation centre (including voluntary centres)	...	...	...	...	...	17	8	...	12
(ii) In industrial centre	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
(iii) From a home teacher in groups	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
(iv) From a home teacher at home (not in groups)	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
TOTAL of 6 (c)						17	8	12	12

Section C.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

Reports on cases of notifiable diseases are sent to the Medical Officer of Local Authorities who send copies to the County Medical Officer. Weekly and quarterly returns of notifiable diseases are sent from the County Health Department to the Welsh Board of Health. There is close co-operation between the County Health Department and District Councils in the control of infectious diseases, the nursing and health visiting staff of the County Council being made available to the District Medical Officers when required to deal with an outbreak of infectious illness.

Fees for notifying infectious cases are paid to doctors by District Councils who can recover their full amount from the County if copies of the notification have been sent to the County Health Department.

The number of notifications received from District Medical Officers during the year was as follows :—

Smallpox	...	...	...	...	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	18
Enteric Fever (Typhoid)	...	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	7
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	4
Measles	...	...	...	...	889
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	—
Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	2
Acute-encephalitis—Infective	...	...	...	...	1
„ Post-infective	...	...	...	...	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—Paralytic	...	...	...	...	—
„ Non-paralytic	...	...	...	...	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	73
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	11
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	69
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	73
Malaria (contracted abroad)	...	...	...	...	—
					—
Total					1153
					—

There were no cases of Typhoid or Diphtheria notified.

889 cases of Measles were notified compared with 530 in 1958. No deaths occurred from this disease, however.

69 cases of Scarlet Fever and 73 cases of Whooping Cough were notified compared with 101 and 116 respectively in 1958.

Notified cases of Dysentery and Food Poisoning for the past five years are given below. It is very difficult to assess the number of cases of Dysentery and Food Poisoning as I am quite certain that all cases are not notified.

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Dysentery	... 19	... 33	... 9	... 42	... 18
Food Poisoning	... 31	... 64	... 7	... 5	... 4

The law relating to the notification of Infectious Diseases in my opinion needs amendment as many doctors are not notifying infectious illness now. Many cases are mild, receive treatment at home, and present no public health problem. In many cases concurrent and terminal disinfection is not carried out or performed by the householder. This position presents no problem with minor conditions such as measles, mumps, chickenpox, etc., but may well have serious consequences with the major illnesses such as food poisoning or poliomyelitis.

The law should be changed and doctors requested to notify the major infections as they occur and send in a weekly list of all other infections or simply notify initial cases in their practice.

I have for some years now selected four group practices in the County to act as "spotters" and these doctors report to me all outbreaks of infections in their area. In this way I am able to ascertain what infectious illnesses are prevalent in the County at any given time.

Infectious cases requiring hospital treatment are now admitted to an Infectious Diseases Hospital at Colwyn Bay, Wrexham or Clatterbridge.

Tuberculosis—The statistics showing the number of notifications are as follows :—

Table 24.

TUBERCULOSIS—NOTIFICATION.

FORMAL NOTIFICATIONS.														Total (all ages)
Number of Primary Notifications of New Cases of Tuberculosis.														
AGE PERIODS :	0—	1—	2—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—	
Respiratory, Males	4	1	..	2	5	9	6	13	10	9	1	60
Respiratory, Females	1	4	1	5	6	7	7	1	3	1	..	36
Non-Respiratory, Males	1	1	1	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	7
Non-Respiratory, Females	4	..	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	10

The following table shows the total deaths from Tuberculosis, distinguishing between males and females, and respiratory and non-respiratory Tuberculosis :—

Table 25.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1959.

			Males.		Females.		Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	9	...	2	...	11
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	—	...	3	...	3
			—		—		—
All forms	...		9		5		14
			—		—		—

The crude mortality rate from Tuberculosis (all forms) in the County of Flint declined very considerably from the beginning of the present century up to 1946, followed by an upward trend in the years 1947, 1948 and 1949, and this is shown in the following table. In 1950, however, there was a very considerable fall in the mortality rate to 0.40 per 1000 population, the rate for 1951 was 0.45 per 1000 population, the rate for 1952 was 0.35, the rate for 1953 was 0.23. The rate for 1954 was 0.21, for 1955 was 0.23, for 1956 was 0.16, for 1957 0.17, for 1958 was 0.08, and for 1959 it was 0.09.

Table 26.

Year.			Population.		Mortality Rate per 1000 Population.
Census Years :—					
1911	...	...	92705	...	1.45
1921	...	...	106617	...	0.97
1931	...	...	112889	...	0.84
5 Year Period :—					
1935	...	...	116000	...	0.68
1936	...	...	117770	...	0.55
1937	...	...	119540	...	0.58
1938	...	...	121020	...	0.65
1939	...	...	121900	...	0.46
5 Year Period :—					
1945	...	...	125670	...	0.56
1946	...	...	131870	...	0.45
1947	...	...	134480	...	0.62
1948	...	...	138308	...	0.61
1949	...	...	140300	...	0.73

Table 26—continued.

Year.			Population.	Mortality Rate per 1000 Population.	
5 Year Period :—					
1950	...	...	145080	...	0.40
1951	...	...	145700	...	0.45
1952	...	...	145700	...	0.35
1953	...	...	145100	...	0.23
1954	...	...	145800	...	0.21
1955	...	...	146100	...	0.23
1956	...	...	146000	...	0.16
1957	...	...	147200	...	0.17
1958	...	...	146600	...	0.08
1959	...	...	147000	...	0.09

The figures for the 5 year period 1940-1944 are not included as they are not considered comparable in view of the large influx of evacuees into the County during that period.

There is only a very small difference between the number of notifications received (expressed as rates per 1000 population) in the pre-war years 1935-1939, and the post-war years 1945-1956.

Table 27.

Pre-War Years.			Post-War Years.		
1935	...	1.03	1945	...	1.38
1936	...	1.13	1946	...	1.57
1937	...	1.40	1947	...	1.21
1938	...	1.15	1948	...	1.36
1939	...	1.28	1949	...	1.13
			1950	...	1.14
			1951	...	.93
			1952	...	1.04
			1953	...	1.29
			1954	...	1.08
			1955	...	1.03
			1956	...	.98
			1957	...	.89
			1958	...	.83
			1959	...	.77

Although there has been a small fall in the notification rate of tuberculosis during the past ten years—the fall has not been as sharp as that in the death rate. These findings are common to England and Wales as a whole as the following tables show :—

Table 28.
CASES NOTIFIED.

	1940	1950	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Table 1 (Flintshire) :								
Respiratory T.B. ...	135	132	128	125	120	98	99	95
Non-Respiratory T.B. ...	44	34	29	25	23	34	23	18
Table 2 (Flintshire) :								
Notification per 1000								
population ...	1.28	1.14	1.08	1.03	0.98	0.89	0.83	0.78
Table 2 (England and Wales) :								
Notification per 1000								
population ...	1.16	1.18	0.95	0.89	0.79	0.72	0.65	0.60
Table 3 (Flintshire) :								
Death rate per 1000 of the								
population, Respiratory								
and Non-Respiratory ...	0.46	0.40	0.21	0.23	0.16	0.17	0.08	0.05
Table 3 (England and Wales) :								
Death rate per 1000 of the								
population, Respiratory								
and Non-Respiratory ...	0.99	0.59	0.28	0.15	0.12	0.11	0.10	0.08

During the year every possible step was taken to try and get all "contacts" of notified cases of Tuberculosis examined. The two Tuberculosis Health Visitors did excellent work in this connection and 320 out of 358 (89.4 %) contacts were examined, which is a higher rate of examination than ever previously achieved. (See Table 29).

During the year the close co-operation existing in the past with the National Assistance Board and the Group Disablement Officer of the Ministry of Labour has been maintained.

I would also like to thank Dr. E. Clifford Jones and Dr. J. B. Morrison, the two Consultant Chest Physicians who serve Flintshire, for their ready co-operation and valuable assistance in the work of prevention and after-care of tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis: Mass X-Ray Survey—The County is served by a semi-static mass x-ray unit which visits four centres in the County every three weeks. The centres are Rhyl, Holywell, Shotton and Mold. Any member of the public can attend without prior appointment, and General Practitioners have been requested to refer patients with chest symptoms to these centres. The work done by the semi-static unit is shown in Table 32.

In addition to the semi-static unit surveys were also carried out during the year by another unit of the Mass Radiography Service, Cardiff, and details are shown in Tables 30 and 31.

Following a report from the Minister of Health, children under 14 years of age and expectant mothers were advised not to attend the Mass X-Ray units but to have ordinary radiograph of the chest if found necessary. This means a change in our follow-up of children found to have positive skin test results at B.C.G. sessions. It was arranged with the Chest Physicians to refer children with strongly positive skin tests for large plate x-ray at the chest clinics.

TUBERCULOSIS—CARE AND AFTER-CARE.

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Table 30.

SURVEY OF GENERAL POPULATION AND SCHOOL CHILDREN BY MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT DURING 1959.

Area.	Number of Persons Examined.			Numbers Found Abnormal.											
				Definite Pulmonary Tuberculosis.			Needing further observations for Pulmonary Tuberculosis.			Other Abnormalities.			Total.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Hawarden Grammar School ...	64	72	136	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
Queensferry Modern Sec. School ...	36	32	68	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Saltney Modern Sec. School ...	25	29	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Flint Modern Secondary School	30	44	74	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Flint Blessed Richard Gwyn School ...	21	17	38	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buckley Elfed Sec. Mod. School	31	30	61	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Asaph Grammar School ...	6	3	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prestatyn Clawdd Offa Mod. Secondary School ...	7	10	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
School Staff	40	31	71	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Saltney	37	44	81	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	3	1	4
Overton	48	55	103	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	2	1	3
Bangor-on-Dee	45	50	95	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	—	3	3	3
Penley	36	50	86	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	1	7	6	2	8
TOTAL ...	426	467	893	—	—	—	2	3	5	9	6	15	11	9	20

Table 31.

SURVEY OF FACTORIES AND WORKS VISITED BY MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT DURING 1959.

Factory or Works.	Number of Persons Examined.			Numbers found abnormal.								
				Definite Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Needing further observations for Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Other Abnormalities.		Total.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
George Henry Wright, Shotton	27	16	43	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
John Summers	Not available			—	Not available	36	—	Not available	115	Not available	151	
Courtaulds Flint (Deeside Mill)	191	277	6443	—	1	2	1	8	9	2	11	
Courtaulds Flint (Castle Mill)	461	292	753	—	11	13	2	11	5	7	29	
Courtaulds, Greenfield	169	13	182	—	—	—	—	6	6	6	6	
Textile Mills, Holywell	18	61	79	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	
North Wales Paper Company, Oakenholt	78	41	119	—	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	
Chance Pilkington Optical Works, St. Asaph	133	70	203	—	2	2	2	2	1	4	5	
Darwen and Mostyn Iron Company	152	9	161	—	1	1	1	5	5	6	6	
Grosvenor Chater and Company, Holywell	68	58	126	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	3	
No-Nail Boxes, Saltney	61	140	201	—	—	2	2	—	—	2	2	
Castle Fire Brick Company, Northop	119	9	128	1	—	—	—	2	—	3	3	
North Wales Co-operative Bakeries, Queensferry	53	60	113	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	
Tunnel Portland Cement, Padeswood	209	33	242	—	1	1	1	3	3	4	4	
Catherall Works, Buckley	29	—	29	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	
Buckley Brick and Tile	14	2	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Totals carried forward	1782	1081*	9306	1	18	5	59*	42	11	61	16	228*

Table 31—continued.

Factory or Works.	Number of Persons Examined.			Numbers found abnormal.											
				Definite Pulmonary Tuberculosis.			Needing further observations for Pulmonary Tuberculosis.			Other Abnormalities.			Total.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Totals brought forward	1782*	1081*	9306	1	—	1	18*	5*	59	42*	11*	168	61*	16*	228
Buckley Junction Works and Lane End Works	41	—	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
De Havilland's, Broughton	2402	540	2942	—	—	—	13	3	16	42	6	48	55	9	64
Rustproof Limited, Saltney	95	28	123	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	2
Country Maid Bakeries Limited	99	57	156	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	2	2	1	3
St. David's Manufacturing Company	9	37	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Montgomerie Stobo, Saltney	43	18	61	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	2	2	1	3
R. Graesser, Sandycroft	158	55	213	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	—	1	3	—	3
International Electrolytic Plant, Sandycroft	15	6	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jones Balers, Mold	151	30	181	—	1	1	3	—	3	1	—	1	4	1	5
Jones Balers, Rhosesmor	82	6	88	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	2	—	2
Connah's Quay Power Station	154	12	166	2	—	2	—	—	—	3	—	3	5	—	5
Miscellaneous Contractors	Not available	Not available	271	—	—	—	Not available	Not available	1	Not available	Not available	3	Not available	Not available	4
TOTAL	39*	10*	86	3	1	4	5031*	1870*	6901	94*	18*	230	136*	29*	321

* These figures do not include Males and Females ex-rayed at Messrs. John Summers and Miscellaneous Contractors, as they were not available.

Table 32.
SURVEY OF GENERAL POPULATION VISITED BY MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT DURING 1959.

Fixed Location.	Total number examined.	Definite Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Number referred for further investigation.	Number of other Pulmonary Abnormalities (not requiring further observations).	Total.
HOLYWELL	842	1	22	12	35
MOLD	540	1	6	13	20
RHYL	1454	4	93	66	163
SHOTTON	720	2	9	8	19
TOTAL	3556	8	130	99	237

Venereal Disease—The number of cases treated for the first time at the Centres at Chester, St. Asaph, Wrexham and Liverpool during the year was :—

Syphilis	...	...	...	6
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	14
Other conditions	...	...	...	77
				<hr/>
Total	...			97
				<hr/>

Section D.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

The Welfare Committee now administers the services provided by the Authority under Sections 21-28 of the National Assistance Act. The Health Department continues to administer Sections 29 and 30 of the Act.

There is close liaison between the Welfare Department and the Health Department and all medical matters affecting the Welfare Department are referred by the County Welfare Office to the Health Department.

I am grateful to the County Welfare Officer for the following report on the work of his department during the year.

REPORT BY THE COUNTY WELFARE OFFICER.

Section 21 of the National Assistance Act imposes upon Local Authorities certain duties under the Act as follows :—

- (a) The provision of residential accommodation for persons who by reason of age, infirmity or any other circumstances are in need of care and attention which is not otherwise available to them.
- (b) Temporary accommodation for persons who are in urgent need thereof, being need arising in circumstances which would not reasonably have been foreseen or in such other circumstances as the authority may in any particular case determine.

The year 1959 has witnessed considerable moves to emancipate the Welfare Service from the former Institutional atmosphere of the Holywell and St. Asaph Hospitals and the structural adaptations of Y Gorlan were completed by the end of September.

Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Smith were appointed as Superintendent and Matron and commenced duties on the 1st November. Considerable work was then carried out by the Department to furnish the entire Home and this was completed by the end of the year. After taking into consideration space allocation and staff accommodation, the bed state was fixed at 34 males and 54 females, a total of 88 plus temporary accommodation for homeless families in a basement flat.

The total accommodation provided by the Council during the year was as follows:—

Park House	...	...	20 Females
Carr Holm	...	...	24 Females
The Lawn	...	...	56 Males
Hafan Glyd	...	...	40 Males and Females

Joint User arrangements (these terminated in January and February, 1960).

Holywell	...	36	Males 18, Females 18
St. Asaph	...	30	Females
		<hr/> 206 <hr/>	

The County has also formulated arrangements under Section 26 of the National Assistance Act whereby a number of aged women are accommodated at Plas Coed, Rhyl, a voluntary Home administered by the Plas Coed Management Committee, and at the 31st December last the Council had 18 persons chargeable.

There are also a number of persons chargeable in Homes outside the County as follows (the figures are those at 31st December, 1959):—

			M.	F.
Other Authorities Homes	...	...	3	3
Homes for Handicapped Persons	...	...	5	2
Blind Homes	...	...	4	3
Voluntary Homes	...	...	2	—
			<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	14	8
			<hr/>	<hr/>

The number of cases accommodated in Homes outside the County for whom the Council assumes financial responsibility during the year were five.

The Council also provides accommodation in Flintshire Homes for three persons who are chargeable to other authorities.

With the tendency of our ageing population to increase over the next few years it has not been possible to meet all demands for accommodation during the year and the opening of Y Gorlan will only provide an additional 22 beds over present numbers. The waiting list as at 31st December, 1959, was 5 males and 30 females, and these numbers show a tendency to rise. It has been found increasingly difficult to accommodate some of the elderly people referred to in view of their infirmity, and during the year further

regard was had to the terms of Circular 14/57 issued by the Ministry of Health in October, 1957, and a sick bay was adapted at Hafan Glyd at a total cost of £786 including the furnishings. Owing to the demand for accommodation, this Home accommodated 43 persons practically throughout the year by putting down beds in the ladies' lounge.

Owing to improved nursing facilities provided in our Homes, the number of old people admitted to hospital has not been so great as in previous years and although there is still an acute shortage of chronic sick beds we have managed to get suitable types admitted on an exchange basis.

The unified standard charge at our Homes was £5/2/1 during the year. These charges are fixed as from the 1st of October each year and are somewhat lower than similar charges for other authorities.

The department expresses gratitude to those persons of good will who continue to make gifts to the Homes, and during the year several gifts were received by all the Homes, including a gift of linen from the members of the Deeside Rotary and Round Table Organisations and the gift of a television set to Park House and also a television table. Residents in the various Homes were also invited to concerts and trips during the year and to those who can enjoy these amenities they are of considerable value. A number of concert parties have visited the Homes during the winter months and given concerts which were greatly enjoyed.

The Council has now entered into arrangements with the Merionethshire County Council whereby two persons can be exchanged for two from that County by way of a fortnight at similar Homes, and it is hoped to implement this in the near future.

The Council has also entered into arrangements during the year with one Housing Authority to implement the terms of Circular 17/59 issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and Ministry of Health on steps to be taken to prevent the eviction of problem families.

The Homes for the Aged have been full to capacity during the year with certain short vacancies whilst residents are in hospital and the average bed occupancy during the year was 200.50 against a total bed complement of 206.

It is the policy of the Welfare Committee to allow elderly persons to come into the Homes for short periods to enable relatives to take annual holidays. This often prevents permanent residence and is of great benefit to both the elderly persons and their relatives. The number accommodated thus during the year was five. Due to the domiciliary services available within the County elderly people are now able to remain in their own homes much longer than in past years but, when admitted, present a greater degree of infirmity than before and need more nursing care.

A duty is imposed upon Welfare Authorities to provide temporary accommodation for persons in urgent need thereof. The number of cases falling within this category during the year amounted to 14 and these were admitted to temporary accommodation either at St. Asaph or Holywell.

Section 31 of the National Assistance Act states that a local authority may make contributions to the funds of any voluntary organisation whose activities consist in or include the provision of recreation or meals for old people.

The distribution of hot meals has gone on apace during the year and three new schemes have been introduced, viz, Mancot, Carmel and Connah's Quay. The total number of hot meals distributed during the year in the eleven centres amount to 9,134 to 128 elderly and infirm persons at a net cost of £699/16/0 plus a total of 1,920 meals distributed by the W.V.S. to fifty elderly and infirm persons in Prestatyn and Rhyl by way of house delivery and in the Darby and Joan Club premises.

Another important feature of the domiciliary services is the Chiropody Schemes that were introduced during the year. Four schemes have been in operation, viz, Mold, Rhyl, Prestatyn and Queensferry, and 917 treatments administered in respect of the year ended 31st December, 1960.

Close liaison is maintained between the department and the Voluntary Organisations in the County, and I am grateful to those organisations concerned for their valuable assistance in many ways. The Women's Voluntary Services have been extremely helpful with gifts of clothing and other items to necessitous families.

There is also excellent co-operation with the National Assistance Board. The department have been able to deal with all cases referred to them and the Board are always ready to provide information to the department in respect of persons admitted to accommodation where those persons were previously known to the Board. The department, through the Area Welfare Officer, also act as agents for the receipt of National Assistance grants where the payees are unable to manage their own affairs and require supervision for the payment of rent and household commodities.

There are a total of thirty-one Old People's Associations of various types throughout the County who do an enormous amount of work in providing recreational facilities and other services to assist old people to remain in their own Homes. The department has continued to carry out a policy of boarding out selected cases and this has helped materially to meet the demand for accommodation. There is a continual turnover in this type of case as boarding out can only be regarded as ancillary to accommodation in Homes for the Aged. The number boarded out at 31st December, 1959, was nineteen, and the number boarded out during the year was eight.

There has been a sharp increase in the number of problem cases dealt with during the year. Many of these families require the concerted action of Health Visitors, Children's Officers and Welfare Officers, and often arise through their inability to pay rent and subsequent eviction. A total of 72 cases falling under this heading were dealt with and five cases were admitted to Part III Accommodation, the remainder made their own arrangements with relatives or were assisted to find other accommodation by the Welfare Officers.

Section 39: Registration of Disabled or Old Persons Homes. One new Home was registered during the year, viz, Glyn Abbott, Bagillt Road, Holywell. Proprietor, Mrs. M. E. Maxfield, S.R.N. This Home is modern and convenient in every way and has accommodation for ten elderly people of both sexes. Fire precautions are adequate and it has ground floor, first and second floor accommodation.

Section 39: Inspection. The total number of Homes now registered in the County is five, and all were inspected during the year and found satisfactory.

Particulars of the Homes are:—

Plas Coed, Dyserth Road, Rhyl—24 females.

Henshaw's Institution, Rhyl—24 blind persons (male).

Prengwyn Villas, High Street, Dyserth—4 persons both sexes.

Glyn Abbott, Bagillt Road, Holywell—10 persons both sexes.

Section 47: Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention—Six.

Section 48: Duty of Council to afford temporary protection of moveable property of persons admitted to hospitals, etc. During the year action was taken in ten cases of which two were referred to the Court of Protection for short term orders.

Section 50: Burials and Cremations. It was necessary to arrange the funerals of two persons who died in the Council's Homes during the year, and expenditure amounting to £50/15/0 was incurred, of this amount, £30/13/3 was recovered from the estates of the deceased.

Section 51: Failure to Maintain. Action was taken in one case during the year for failing to maintain his wife, and the arrears outstanding under the terms of the previous Court Order were recovered in full.

Receiverships. I hold the appointment of Receiver in the case of fifteen persons either in Homes for the Aged or in Mental Hospitals, and two other cases are pending. The sum of £796/18/4 has been recovered during the year from funds in Court charged in favour of the Council and in respect of current maintenance charges and the amount recovered by way of expenses of the Receiver and paid over to the Council amounted to £72/1/0.

T. WESLEY HUGHES,

County Welfare Officer.

Sections 29 and 30 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, are administered by the Health Committee. Section 29 deals with the welfare of blind, deaf, and those substantially handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity or such other disabilities as may be prescribed by the Minister.

The County Council has approved schemes for the welfare of the blind and deaf and dumb. During 1959 a scheme for the provision of services for the Generally Handicapped was prepared under Sections 29 and 30 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. This scheme was submitted to and approved by the Welsh Board of Health in October. At the end of the year, much of the preliminary work to implement the scheme had been carried out and it is hoped to appoint a full-time Home Visitor of the Generally Handicapped early in 1960.

Welfare of the blind is undertaken on behalf of the Authority by the Chester and District Blind Welfare Society. The total number of blind persons on the register on 31st December, 1959, was :—

Blind 290. Of these 7 were under 16 years of age, and 72 in the employable age groups from 16 to 59. 2 blind people were in training in open industry, and 25 were working as follows :—

Workshops—7.

Home Workers—5.

Open Industry Employment or Self-Employed—13.

Partially Sighted—91. Of these 4 were in employment and 11 were children in special schools.

Table 33.

**A.—FOLLOW-UP OF REGISTERED BLIND AND
PARTIALLY-SIGHTED PERSONS, 1959.**

		Cause of Disability.						
		Cataract.	Glaucoma.	Retrolental			Fibroplasia.	Others.
(i) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which Section F of Forms B.D.8 (Revised) recommends :—								
(a) No treatment :								
Blind	...	5	...	1	...	—	...	9
Partially Sighted	...	3	...	—	...	—	...	9
(b) Treatment (medical, surgical or optical) :								
Blind	...	10	...	5	...	—	...	2
Partially Sighted	...	3	...	2	...	—	...	3
		—		—		—		—
Total Blind and Partially Sighted		21		8		—		23
		—		—		—		—
(ii) Number of cases at (i) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment :								
Blind	...	9	...	4	...	—	...	2
Partially Sighted	...	2	...	2	...	—	...	3
		—		—		—		—
Total Blind and Partially Sighted		11		6		—		5

B.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

(i) Total number of cases notified during the year ... **NIL**

(ii) Number of cases in which :—

(a) Vision lost ... **NIL**

(b) Vision impaired ... **NIL**

(c) Treatment continuing at end of year ... **NIL**

New Cases—Blind 32 ; Partially Sighted 20.

**REPORT BY SECRETARY OF CHESTER AND NORTH WALES
DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY.**

Aged :—		Males.	Females.	Total.
5 to 16 years	...	5	2	7
16 to 21 years	...	3	2	5
21 to 50 years	...	11	16	27
50 to 65 years	...	8	13	21
65 and over	...	7	9	16
Total		34	42	76

The figures given above do not include the very young children, although in some counties a clinic has been set up to help mothers with their very young babies when a diagnosis has been made and they are found to be deaf.

The Welfare Officers of the Society persistently visit every home on the Register, employment is found for those who are leaving school, and those who are unfortunate enough to come on the unemployed list.

In very many ways these handicapped persons have special care, i.e., where sickness befalls them, or they are involved in an accident; when they come into a Court of Justice or appear at a Tribunal or Wages Board, the Welfare Officer is in attendance. They are called to assist when patients have to be examined in hospital and treatment determined, their service is required at Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms and, indeed, interpretation is vital in any representative gathering of born deaf or of people whose hearing has been impaired from an early age.

For those who have lost their hearing in later years, lip-reading is taught by a qualified teacher at Headquarters every Friday morning, free of charge, and many have benefited from this teaching.

Placement and industrial supervision is provided. Religious instruction is given (but not compulsory) without creed or dogma. Social services are provided. Industrial cases visited.

It will be seen therefore that the Welfare Services for the deaf and dumb provided by this Council are the only and the absolutely essential link between these people and anything approaching a normal life so far as they are concerned.

A few example cases are herewith appended :—

1. N.C., Buckley—A very sad case; lives alone and is seldom out of the house, added to her deafness is her failure to see, yet she is happy and well cared for by her neighbours. The Welfare Officer spends many hours in this home, giving in the Manual Language all the news about friends and other handicapped persons known to this person in her younger days.

2. J.A., Buckley—Has been unable to work for nearly four years because of ill health, he was visited by the Welfare Officer, a hearing aid was provided and the sick man is now able to enjoy the programmes on the radio and television. He is most grateful.

3. F.C., Shotton—This man was for many years employed by the Hawarden Council but lost the use of his legs and finally of his hands and for a time was in hospital. Regular visits were made, gifts in kind were taken to him, information about the outside world was given to him by the Welfare Officer until his demise.

4. J.H., Connah's Quay—One of the boys who was in training at the Manchester Training School for the Deaf. His term was almost complete, enquiries were made and he was introduced to a large baking firm who gave him employment.

5. M.S., Buckley—The Welfare Officer heard about this case through a letter sent to the Secretary. She was immediately visited and it was found she was hard of hearing and required a hearing aid. Her case was reported to the technician and she is now able to talk with her sister and enjoys life to the full.

6. G.C., Rhyl—This person is blind as well as deaf and dumb. She lives with her married sister who is exceptionally kind to her. The Welfare Officer calls to see her and talks to her in the Blind Manual Language on her hand. She enjoys the visits and her final word on her hand is "When will you be coming again?"

7. Mr. a Mrs. C., Rhyl—Two people in their eighties with one daughter deaf and dumb. This home is carefully visited as the parents are anxious about their daughter and what will become of her. An assurance is given that every precaution will be taken and provision will be found should unforeseen circumstances take place. Words cannot express their appreciation of all the Secretary has done for this home and for the visits of the Welfare Officer.

8. J.C., Rhyl—Became redundant and for a time was on the unemployed list. He worked for eleven years without a break in his former employment and it was somewhat easy to find suitable employment for him. He is uneducated but enjoys life to the full and is never happier than when the Welfare Officer calls to visit him.

9. L.L., Prestatyn—This is a case the Council can be justly proud over. Since she entered Carr Holm she is a different person. Clean, tidy, well fed and very happy. She speaks well of Matron and all that is done for her, and loves to be visited by the Welfare Officer.

These are only a few of the salient cases from the reports and case papers, but they give a vivid picture of the work being done and the visits paid regularly to the handicapped persons in the Flintshire area.

Added to the foregoing are visits to Lluesty Hospital, Denbigh Hospital and St. Asaph Hospital when there are patients that require visits.

Mention might also be made of the successful Children's Party at Christmas time when a cinema show was given in the morning, lunch at Clemences Cafe prior to a visit to the Royalty Theatre for the Pantomime "Dick Whittington and his Cat," then tea at Clemences Cafe where all the children were presented with gifts by the Mayoress and Sheriff of Chester on behalf of the Society.

Adult parties were held in Rhyl, Chester and Wrexham, and were well attended by handicapped persons from all over Flintshire.

D. RUSSELL MACFARLANE, A.Inst.S.W.,

Superintendent and Secretary.

Section E.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

941 samples of foods were taken during the year ended 31st December, 1959. 621 of these were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis, 200 were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, and the remaining 120 were samples of school milk which were tested in the office for fats and solids content.

The following is a brief summary of the samples submitted to the Public Analyst :—

Article.	Number taken.	Genuine.	Not genuine or below standard.
Milk	333	233	100
Dairy Products	14	13	1
Sausages	70	66	4
Ice Cream and Lollies	16	14	2
Miscellaneous Groceries	103	97	6
Alcoholic Drinks	11	11	—
Fish and Meat Products	38	36	2
Patent Medicines	8	7	1
Vegetables and Fruit	28	27	1
	621	504	117

Milk—333 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis, and 100 were reported as being below standard. The samples were taken from roundsmen, dairies, farms, schools, hospitals and restaurants, and were examined for colouring matter, added water, fat deficiency, solids not fat, blood, dirt and preservatives. The analysis of the samples reported as not being genuine showed that 4 contained added water, 31 had fat deficiencies, and 55 were low in solids not fat.

Successful legal proceedings were instituted in respect of one sample of milk containing added water. The defendant had been convicted on two previous occasions for similar offences in the County.

The legal standard for the fat content of Channel Island milk is 4 %. 4 samples were found to have a slight fat deficiency and the "appeal" samples showed that the herds were giving milk with butter fat content below the legal standard. The producers immediately stopped designating the milk as Channel Island milk and sold it as ordinary farm bottled T.T. milk. Successful legal proceedings were instituted against the producers of one sample of Channel Island milk which had a 12 % fat deficiency. In all cases of poor quality milk the producers were advised to contact the Advisory Services of the Agricultural Executive Committee.

Pasteurised Milk—There are three pasteurising plants in the County. These are inspected weekly, attention being paid to the structural conditions of the buildings, efficiency of the pasteurising operations and to the cleanliness of the staff. Samples of pasteurised milk are taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. Rinses from the washed churns, and washed bottles from the bottle washers are also bacteriologically examined.

School Milk—Milk supplied to the schools and school kitchens were examined weekly and all samples were found to be genuine.

Successful legal proceedings were instituted against a firm of dairymen for supplying milk in a bottle containing a piece of glass.

Bio'logical Milk Sampling—120 samples of raw milk were taken from retailers and tested for the presence of Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucella Abortus. All samples were found to be free from tuberculosis but Brucellosis was found in three samples. In each case the infected cows were removed from the herds concerned.

Other Foods—288 samples of foodstuffs were submitted to the Public Analyst and 17 were found to be below standard or did not comply with the regulations. Legal proceedings were instituted in respect of six samples.

Sausages—Four samples were slightly deficient in meat content and a warning letter was sent to the manufacturers in each case.

Codein Compound—The aspirin content was slightly below the B.P. standard. A subsequent formal sample was found to be genuine.

Brisling in Tomato—Decomposed due to long storage. The matter was referred to the Health Department of the District concerned for the inspection and disposal of stocks.

A Meat Pie was found to contain a large piece of indigestible gristle and the manufacturers were warned.

A sample of apples was found to have the flesh deeply pitted with dark spots due to a disease. The matter was referred to the Health Department of the District concerned for inspection and disposal of stocks.

A **Cake**, advertised as a cream cake, was found to contain no genuine cream and successful legal proceedings were instituted.

Two Samples of Cream Ices advertised as containing dairy cream were found to contain no cream. Proceedings were instituted and dismissed on payment of costs. The Chairman of the Magistrates bench was of the opinion that the County Council should have sent a warning letter to the manufacturers instead of taking proceedings.

Three Samples of Canned Foodstuffs infringed the labelling orders and successful legal proceedings were instituted. The real facts at issue here were the distributors' practice of purchasing stock, some of which was old, re-labelling the cans and then selling them. In re-labelling the cans the name of the distributor was omitted from the labels. This may not appear to be a serious offence but the name or trademark is there to safeguard the purchaser. It is the only means of tracing the source of the foodstuffs should it be associated with a case of food poisoning.

A **Loaf of Bread** was found to contain a black pellet not unlike rodent excreta but, on analysis, it was found to be a hard baked pellet of grease and dirt. A warning letter was sent to the bakers.

The deficiencies reported in the other foodstuffs were of a minor character and subsequent formal samples were found to be genuine.

SUMMARY OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Article.	Deficiency or Adulteration.	Result.	Total Fines, etc.
			£ s. d.
Cream Cakes	Did not contain cream	Convicted	9 17 0
Cream Ice Cream	} Did not contain cream	Absolute discharge	
Cream Ice Cream		on payment of costs	9 2 0
Milk	Glass in bottle	Convicted	16 10 0
Channel Island Milk	12.5 % fat deficiency	Convicted	22 16 0
Milk	3 % added water	Convicted	29 5 0
Strawberries	} Labels did not comply with Labelling Orders	Convicted	11 15 0
Carrots		Convicted	11 15 0
Fruit Salad		Convicted	11 15 0
Total ...			£122 15 0

Samples of foodstuffs submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service included raw and heat treated milk, cream, confectionery, frozen foods, poultry, frozen eggs, meat and fish products. Swabs and rinses taken from wiping up cloths, towels and utensils at bakery and school meals premises were also sent for examination.

Undesirable bacteria were found in a number of foodstuffs and the attention of the Health Department of the district concerned was notified for inspection and advice.

Reference has been made in previous annual reports to the practice of adding tranquilisers, hormones and antibiotics to animal feeding stuffs.

One antibiotic—Penicillin—is used for the treatment of mastitis. Milk producers are aware of the proviso in their contracts with the Milk Marketing Board stipulating that no milk shall be sold for human consumption, taken from a cow whose udder has been treated with antibiotics, until after a period of forty-eight hours.

The problem of the contamination of foodstuffs by the accidental contamination from fungicides and weedkillers is always present. Some of the chemicals used for this purpose have dangerous properties and great care has to be taken in their use. 28 samples of vegetables and fruit were submitted for chemical analysis and all were satisfactory.

Aircraft was used in one district to spray bracken with a chemical containing growth inhibiting hormones. The bracken grew on a hillside near a reservoir. Because of the danger of "drift" from the spraying operations samples of water and treated bracken were sent to the Public Analyst. The samples proved to be satisfactory.

Two samples of another water supply were tested for the presence of radio active substances. Both samples proved to be satisfactory.

Public Health Education—Lectures and films were given to organisations such as Young Farmers' Clubs, Women's Institutes, Youth Clubs, Red Cross, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Boy Scouts, Nursing Students, Political Organisations, Canteen Staffs.

The subjects discussed included Public Health, the Social Services, Housing, Clean Food, Environmental Health.

Displays dealing with Poliomyelitis, Immunisation, Home Safety, Dental Care and Clean Food were arranged in the Library and main shopping centres.

The Health Department now possesses a modern 16 m.m. sound film projector, 2 film strip projectors, and an extensive film strip library.

When the Education Department set up its Visual Aids Department and Film Library, the County Medical Officer recommended a list of films to be purchased as a nucleus for the library on matters dealing with health education for use in schools and school clinics. The list included such subjects as Care of the Teeth, Fundamentals of Diet, Digestions, Preparation for Parenthood, Menstruation, Advances against Disease, First Aid, Circulation, Elimination of Waste Matters, Nervous System, etc.

The films have been purchased and are being used regularly by the Health Department Staff in the programmes of talks at schools, clinics and youth clubs.

Other Duties—The inspection of school premises and hospital kitchens, investigation of complaints, atmospheric pollution, river pollution, water supplies, sewage disposal, caravan sites, and refuse disposal.

Shop Act—The provisions dealing with the health and comfort of shop workers are found in the Shop Act, 1950. They include heating, ventilation, sanitation, lighting, washing facilities, facilities for taking meals and seating accommodation.

The District Council Health Departments are responsible for the supervision of the heating facilities, efficiency of the ventilation and sanitary accommodation. The County Health Department is responsible for supervision of lighting, washing facilities, facilities for taking meals and seating accommodation for female workers.

The Rhyl Urban District Health Department is responsible for the administration of all the provisions of the Act dealing with the health and comfort of the shop workers in its area.

All premises inspected during the year complied with the Act.

Fertiliser and Feeding Stuffs Act—22 samples of feeding stuffs and fertilisers were taken during the year and the Public Analyst reported that 21 were genuine. The contents of a sample of fertiliser did not comply with the statutory statement in that the amount of potash found exceeded that given in the statement.

A complaint was received from one farmer that two calves died as the result of eating a certain food stuff. Samples of the feeding stuff were examined chemically for poisonous chemicals and bacteriologically for any undesirable bacteria. All samples were satisfactory.

Pharmacy and Poisons Act—The duties devolving upon the County Council under the Act are :—

- (a) The names of all shopkeepers, other than registered pharmacists, who sell Part II poisons, are to be entered on the Council's lists.

- (b) To see that any deputy appointed under Rule 14 is a responsible person.
- (c) To see that the substances which contain Part II poison which appear in the first schedule of the Poisons Rule are being sold by the listed seller or by a responsible deputy.
- (d) That a Poisons Book is kept in the prescribed form and manner and that all entries therein are in order.
- (e) That the storage arrangements for certain poisons are adequate.
- (f) That the requirements as to labels and type of containers are complied with.

There are 210 listed sellers of poisons in the County and these are subject to a periodic inspection.

E. LEWIS,

County Public Health Inspector.

Section F.

SPECIAL REPORT ON THE CARE OF THE AGED IN FLINTSHIRE.

An informal meeting was held at the Holywell Cottage Hospital in May 1959, between Dr. G. H. T. Lloyd, Consultant Physician, Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Management Committee, Mr. T. Wesley Hughes, County Welfare Officer, Dr. G. W. Roberts, County Medical Officer, and the following representatives of the Flintshire and Denbighshire Local Medical Committee:—Dr. B. D. Chowdhury, Dr. D. L. Williams, Dr. T. G. Hooson and Dr. G. H. Collier.

Dr. R. S. Brock of Wrexham also attended, at his own request, as an observer.

The purpose of the meeting was to give an outline of the present services available to the chronic sick and aged in the County, and to ascertain the many problems facing the general practitioners in their work in the domiciliary care of the aged and sick.

The total population of Flintshire is 146,600 and 9.9 % are over 65 years of age—a total of 14,513. This means that 99 per 1,000 of the population is over 65 years of age, compared with approximately 80 per 1,000 in 1900.

The County Welfare Officer gave an outline of the services provided by his department.

- (a) **Homes for the Aged**—The County Council is responsible for providing permanent or temporary residential care for the elderly who are in need of care and attention which is not otherwise available to them. The intention is that the Council should provide care, where necessary, for the active elderly in a "substitute home." The Ministry of Health has ruled (Circular 14/57) that in addition to caring for the fit elderly the County Council Homes for the Aged should provide nursing care for short term illness, and provide facilities for the more infirm aged, and retain residents during terminal illnesses.

It is quite clear that **aged sick** persons should be admitted to hospital and not to a Home for the Aged, and those in Homes for the Aged who are suffering from illnesses other than those normally cared for at home should be admitted to hospital.

- (b) Arrangements are in force to admit aged to the County Homes on a short-term care basis when vacancies permit to meet domestic emergencies at home and to enable relatives to have a break.
- (c) The County Council has to provide accommodation from time to time to meet sudden emergencies, e.g., eviction, damage to homes due to fire, floodings, etc. Acute problems of this nature also arise in Flintshire during the summer months when persons who have come in for temporary employment find themselves without accommodation for one reason or another.
- (d) There is usually a waiting list of males and females for vacancies at the County Council Homes for the Aged. Those on the waiting list are admitted on a priority basis taking all factors into account—social and medical. Every applicant is medically examined and visited by the Welfare Officer who keeps in touch with the applicant until a vacancy is provided.

Present Accommodation for the Aged in Flintshire.

				Males.		Females.
Park House, Prestatyn	...	...	...	—	...	20
Carr Holm, Prestatyn	...	...	...	—	...	24
The Lawn, Rhyl	...	...	...	56	...	—
Hafan Glyd, Shotton	...	...	...	10	...	30
Plas Coed, Rhyl	...	...	...	—	...	18
Lluesty Hospital, Holywell						
(Part III Accommodation)	...			18	...	18
St. Asaph Hospital (Part III Accommodation)				—	...	30
				84		140
TOTAL				...	224	

(The accommodation shown at Lluesty and St. Asaph Hospitals is for fit aged, and is quite separate from the beds for chronic sick patients at these two hospitals).

The County Welfare Officer stated that the County Council is providing a new Home for the Aged at Rhyl with accommodation for approximately ninety persons, male and female.

The aged persons in Part III Accommodation at Lluesty and St. Asaph Hospitals will be transferred to this new Home when it is opened later this year.

Details were given of the Boarding Out of the Aged Scheme operating in the County. Up to date, fifty aged persons in need of care had been boarded out. They are visited regularly by the Welfare Officers and Health Visitors and the scheme is working well.

Mention was also made of other facilities available to the elderly and, in particular, the valuable work of voluntary organisations in providing:—

- (a) Hot mid-day meals for the aged in certain areas in the County.
- (b) Chiropody clinics.
- (c) Clubs for the aged and arranging outings and home visiting.

Dr. Geoffrey Lloyd gave an outline of the hospital provision for the aged sick. At present there are 114 chronic sick beds at Lluesty Hospital and 39 at St. Asaph Hospital. Nearly all the beds at St. Asaph Hospital are for Denbighshire cases and are under the care of Dr. D. E. Meredith.

This means that 114 beds are provided for Flintshire cases at Lluesty Hospital, a ratio of 0.95 beds per thousand population. The ratio of chronic sick beds in Wales is 0.9 per thousand population, and in England and Wales 1.2 per thousand population.

Dr. Lloyd explained that when the Part III beds at Lluesty are vacated, 30 additional chronic sick beds will become available, bringing the total beds for Flintshire cases up to 144, a ratio of one bed per thousand of population.

He explained that the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Management Committee had agreed to appoint a Consultant Geriatrician who would be in charge of the beds for the aged sick for the whole Hospital Management Committee area. The aim was to provide "acute" geriatric beds for admission and treatment, but the site of this unit had not been decided upon. Dr. Lloyd was of the opinion that an "acute unit" for the admission and treatment of the aged sick to meet the needs of the Clwyd and Deeside area would require about 30 beds, and should preferably be located at the base hospital for the area. This acute unit would require full diagnostic and treatment facilities and adequate ancillary services such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy and social workers.

Long stay beds and accommodation for the senile and confused would also be required, and these patients would probably be treated at Lluesty and St. Asaph.

The Consultant Geriatrician, when appointed, would work closely with other hospital staff, general practitioners, the County Welfare Officer and the County Medical Officer.

The County Medical Officer gave an outline of the work done by his staff for the aged both in health and sickness. He pointed out that the Health Department staff provided services in the main at the request of general practitioners, and that the relation between his department and practitioners was close and friendly.

- (a) **District Nursing**—The County employs 42 District Nurses, many of whom do nursing and midwifery duties. All areas are covered and the County has a full establishment of District Nurses. In 1958, the District Nurses attended 5,693 patients at home and of these 2,459 were over 65 years of age—41.4 % of the total cases visited.
- (b) **Health Visitors**—The County has 19 Health Visitors who are also school nurses, and their duties bring them into contact with the aged in visiting, and in supervision of the Home Help Service. Health Visitors and Welfare Officers also play a vital part in the boarding out scheme for the aged which operates in the County.
- (c) **Home Helps**—105 Home Helps are employed and in 1958 they provided a service for 547 persons. Of this total, 381 were aged, which represents 69.6 % of the total receiving help. The duties of the Home Help are ordinary domestic duties and include cleaning, light washing, bed making, preparation of meals and such other duties as approved by the Home Help Organiser. Helpers are not required to undertake nursing duties but may be asked to undertake care of small children. There is no doubt that the Home Help Service plays a very important part in the care of the aged at home.
- (d) **Medical Loans**—Working with the British Red Cross Society and the St. John's, the County has a Medical Loans Service to enable patients, particularly the aged, to obtain equipment on loan at home such as bed pans, backrests, rubber sheeting, urinals, bed cradles, etc. These are only supplied at the request of a doctor or a nurse.
- (e) The County Medical Officer explained that voluntary organisations help his department in many ways in the care of the aged.

General Practitioners at the meeting stressed the need for more houses built specially for the aged, and the desirability of providing on a wide scale in these dwellings communal facilities including a supervisory warden service. The County Medical Officer explained that this was a matter for each District Council. District Councils were aware of these needs, and meeting them as quickly as possible. The following figures indicate the position in the County at present :—

ONE-BEDROOM TYPE ACCOMMODATION COMPLETED IN FLINTSHIRE

Local Authority	1946 to									
	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Urban Districts :										
Buckley	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Connah's Quay	...	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	20	—
Flint M.B.	...	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Holywell	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mold	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Prestatyn	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rhyl	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	8
Rural Districts :										
Hawarden	...	—	—	2	—	6	10	8	—	—
Holywell	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maelor	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Asaph	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	...	—	14	2	2	8	10	8	—	28

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

The following is a summary of the present position relating to services for the aged in the County and the main recommendations for future developments :—

Welfare Services.

The County Council have made provision for 224 aged persons in homes and by using beds in two hospitals.

A new Home is to be opened in Rhyl to accommodate ninety (males and females).

The Welfare Department also runs, in conjunction with the Health Department, a Boarding Out Scheme for the Aged and fifty persons have been boarded out.

When the new Home for the Aged is opened in Rhyl it is felt that the provision for the aged and infirm in the County in need of care will be adequate. Flintshire will then have 1.7 places per thousand of the population in Homes for the Aged compared with 1.3 places per thousand of the population in Wales and 1.5 places per thousand of the population in England and Wales.

It is important not to admit sick aged persons to the Homes as they are not designed or staffed to meet this purpose. It is also important to offer places for short-term care for aged to meet domestic difficulties and to enable relatives to have a break. Those on the waiting list for admission to the Home should be kept under supervision until admitted and the services of a District Nurse and Home Help made available to them if needed.

Health Services.

The present services are meeting the main needs of the aged and no difficulties have been experienced in obtaining the services of a Nurse or Home Help.

The Health Visitor can assist the general practitioner in the care of the aged, and the best way of doing this is a matter for each general practitioner to decide in consultation with the Health Visitor for his area. General practitioners have been given the names of Health Visitors, and Health Visitors will be asked to contact the general practitioners in their area.

It appears desirable for the district nurse to have help in nursing some of the heavy chronic sick cases, and this matter will be looked into.

There is a need to extend evening home help service and to make week-end service more readily available.

A scheme to provide clean linen and do the laundry would be very valuable for incontinent elderly patients. This presents many difficulties in a rural area but an effort will be made to try and implement a scheme.

All at the meeting wish to record their appreciation of the valuable work done by voluntary organisations in meeting the social and material needs of the aged in the community.

Hospital Services.

The general practitioners present at the meeting appreciated the work done by Dr. Geoffrey Lloyd in the care of the aged in the Flintshire area. They also appreciated that it had been difficult to provide an adequate service due to the lack of facilities for complete diagnosis and treatment. It was agreed by those present that there was an urgent need for a full Geriatric Service to be established in the Clwyd and Deeside area.

All present agreed that the appointment of a full-time Consultant Geriatric Physician was a matter of urgency and that if he was to provide an adequate service he would need an "acute unit" at the base hospital for admission and treatment, and adequate ancillary services.

It was felt that sufficient beds for long stay aged sick would be available at Lluestry and St. Asaph Hospitals when the Part III cases were transferred to Rhyl.

Great emphasis was laid on the need for co-operation between the Consultant Geriatrician, General Practitioners, Welfare Officer and the County Medical Officer of Health. It was suggested that a small professional committee of the above be established when a Consultant Geriatrician is appointed to deal with the many problems that constantly arise in providing for the needs of the aged particularly the infirm aged and the sick. If such a committee was established for the County consideration would have to be given to the views of local authorities and voluntary organisations who play a vital part in any scheme for the care of the aged.

